



# Padres Press Clips

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# Padres notes: Castillo serves ice in debut; Jankowski hustles, learns

Kevin Acee

Getting [Joey Votto](#) swinging for your first major-league strikeout is impressive.

“I gave him a really easy batter the first one he faced,” [Padres](#) manager Andy Green said. “The guy is as good as it comes. That’s fun – your first strikeout to be Joey Votto, Probably not a whole lot of pitchers can say that.”

But it was what Padres rookie Jose Castillo did two batters later, in the middle of his third strikeout, against his third major league hitter in his first major league inning that truly showed what the big left-hander might be.

Down 3-1 to Adam Duvall, the 22-year-old Castillo shook off catcher [A.J. Ellis](#) and threw a slider for a called second strike before blowing a 96 mph fastball up out of the zone and past Duvall’s swinging bat.

“That’s some conviction,” Green said. “Conviction is better than any other ingredient a pitcher can have. He’s got that.”

After throwing an inning for Triple-A El Paso on Friday, Castillo was woken at 2 a.m. Saturday morning by a phone call telling him he was being called up. He immediately called his family in Venezuela.

“It was really emotional,” Castillo said late Saturday night. “They were happy and crying. It’s a dream for every baseball player that I was able to reach.”

His flight from El Paso did not arrive in San Diego until late in the afternoon, and a few hours later he was on the mound facing one of the most disciplined hitters in the majors in Votto.

“I think I came in with the mentality of not thinking about names, not thinking about who I was facing, just treating everyone like just another hitter,” Castillo said. “I was able to get those results. ... It’s the same game. It’s the same baseball. Obviously, it’s a little more pressure. Everyone is going to feel pressure. But I’ve played in Venezuela. I played in the [World Baseball Classic](#). I think being in those situations, that helped me handle it and control my emotions.”

It was just more than a year ago that the 6-foot-5, 246-pound Castillo was pitching for Venezuela against the United States in the WBC and in a game at Petco Park was called on to preserve a 1-0 lead in the sixth inning. He did so by striking out Christian Yelich and [Nolan Arenado](#).

“The World Baseball Classic helped a lot,” Castillo said. “It’s the similar situation. Having so many people around and being in that atmosphere, it definitely helped me have the inning I did.”

Castillo, acquired in the 2015 trade that also brought Wil Myers from Tampa Bay, will not pitch Sunday. But he obviously earned more work by becoming just the third Padres pitcher ever to strike out the first three batters he faced. (The others were Jeremy Fikac in 2001 and Tommy Layne in 2012.)

“He seized it today,” Green said. “We’ll be careful with his arm, understanding the future out in front of him.”

## Typical, untypical [Jankowski](#)

In between manufacturing the Padres’ first run practically all on his own, driving in a run, scoring again, stealing two bases and recording seven putouts during his time in left and right field Saturday night, Travis Jankowski blew it.

“Aaaahhh,” Jankowski said, shaking his head. “... Lack of awareness. Definitely a learning experience.”

Having reached on an RBI single in the second inning, Jankowski was promptly forced out at second base on [Eric Hosmer](#)'s groundball. Jankowski may have beaten the throw had he slid.

Having thought the ball got through, he immediately hung his head at second base.

"I don't have to talk to him about not sliding," Green said. "He's smart enough to know that and understand that."

Jankowski talked to first base coach [Skip Schumaker](#) and Ellis, who told him the way to judge whether a ball behind him got past the infielder is by the sound the crowd makes.

The gaffe was most noticeable because it was Jankowski who made it. Not only does he always seem to be going full speed – which means at a speed perhaps no other Padres player possesses – it came on a night when he had turned his white uniform brown before the first inning was over.

Jankowski, the Padres' leadoff hitter, laid down a bunt in the first inning that [Redscatcher](#) Curt Casali rushed and threw high, forcing Votto into the air to make the catch as Jankowski reached safely on a close play that was ruled an error.

Jankowski stole second on the next pitch, went to third on a wild pitch and scored on Jose Pirela's sacrifice fly.

In the seventh inning, Jankowski beat out a slow roller to first base for an infield single. He stole second again (his team-leading 10<sup>th</sup> steal) and scored on Hosmer's single.

"That game right there is the definition of me to a tee," Jankowski said. "Making plays in the outfield, catching balls I should catch, scoring runs. The RBI is uncharacteristic, but I'll take it."

Jankowski's .314 batting average leads the Padres and ranks 11<sup>th</sup> in the [National League](#) since he was called up on April 29. His .381 on-base percentage in that span is also tops on the team and is 18<sup>th</sup> in the NL.

Saturday was the ninth time in 24 games as the Padres' leadoff hitter that Jankowski has reached base in the first inning and the fourth time he scored after doing so.

"He's flying down the line, causing problems, putting pressure on the defense," Green said. "... Travis has played really well. There's not much else you can really ask of him."

## Extra bases

- Rookie Franmil Reyes singled in his first two at-bats Saturday. After starting his career 1-for-11, he has nine hits in his past 35 at-bats. Four of those are HRs.
- Cory Spangenberg struck out pinch-hitting to end the sixth inning, his sixth strikeout in his past seven at-bats.
- Eric Lauer's pick-off of Joey Votto, which ended the third inning, was his fifth of the season, tying him for the major league lead with Atlanta's [Julio Teheran](#). The Padres have 11 pick-offs, most of any team.

# Eric Lauer bounces back, Padres beat Reds

Kevin Acee

It's best when education can be combined with victory.

The [Padres](#) have too often had to settle for just the former with their young team – and especially when Eric Lauer has pitched.

On Saturday, the rookie left-hander did not take a second step back before taking another step forward, making it through five innings and earning the win when his teammates spotted him a sizable lead and then expanded on it for a 8-2 victory over the [Reds](#).

“It’s great for his confidence,” manager Andy Green said. “Now we want to stack a good one on top of a good one. That will be the next challenge out in front of him. He can get big-league hitters out. We know it, and we know there will be growing pains along the way. But there’s a lot to like there.”

The 22-year-old Lauer (2-3) allowed a run on five hits, consistently getting ahead of hitters, reaching 93 mph more often and even 95 once with his fastball, deftly mixing in a more lively curve and working his way out of varying degrees of trouble in the first, third and fifth innings.

“It’s something build off more than anything,” said Lauer, who allowed his lone run on Curt Casali’s homer in the second inning. “Because I definitely want to go longer in games. But being able to show I can get through five even in tough situations ... to prove to myself I can get through those tough innings, that is something to build off.”

His fourth time going at least five innings – in his eighth start since being called up to make his major league debut on April 24 – followed an outing this past Monday in which he surrendered five runs in 2 1/3 innings.

That had continued a trend that frustrated Lauer, as it came on the heels of his strongest start yet, just six days earlier wherein he held the [Washington Nationals](#) to a run in six innings.

His two starts before that: 10 runs in a total of seven innings.

And right before that: Six shutout innings against the Dodgers for his first major league victory on May 6.

The big inning has been Lauer's bane, as he had four three-run innings, a four-run inning and a five-run inning among his total of 26 runs and 29 1/3 innings entering Saturday.

"I have one good game, and then I crap the bed for two innings," Lauer said after Monday's loss to the Marlins. "That's not what a big-league pitcher does."

Prior to Saturday's game, Padres manager Andy Green spoke about that inconsistency from a player who pitched his final college baseball game on May 25, 2016.

"It's part of the growing process," Green said. "You're talking about one of two pitchers – him and (fellow Padres rookie Joey) Lucchesi – that are up from their draft class right now. Those guys are here faster than anybody else. If you're expecting immediate success, you're probably a little naïve. We brought them up understanding they're going to go through some growing pains at the major league level, that there are going to be days their resilience was going to be tested. ... We believe they can handle that, and we believe in the long-term value of them and what they'll do down the road for us if they have these types of experiences now."

It was the Padres (26-34) who had the big innings Saturday as they won for the ninth time in 15 games and on Sunday can win their second straight series.

The Padres began pulling away in the second inning off Reds starter [Matt Harvey](#) (1-4).

Franmil Reyes led off the second by smacking a single up the middle, [Freddy Galvis](#) followed with a single through the right side and A.J. Ellis walked to load the bases.

[Manuel Margot](#) then reached out to slap an 0-2 slider the other way toward the right field line to score Reyes and Galvis. It was Margot's fourth double in eight games, a span of 23 at-bats in which he has raised his average 23 points to .214.

"That was a big hit," Green said. "It opened it up for us. ... It's fun to see him get going."

Lauer followed with a sacrifice fly that was his first career RBI, as it brought Ellis home and moved Margot to third. A single by Jankowski drove in Margot.

Jankowski, who reached on an error in first inning, stole second, went to third and scored on Jose Pirela's sacrifice to start the scoring Saturday, singled to start the seventh. It was the first of five consecutive hits that added three runs.

[Luis Castillo](#), the 22-year-old lefty called up from Triple-A on Saturday, made his major league debut in the eighth inning and struck out all three batters he faced.

[Phil Hughes](#) allowed a home run to Scott Schebler on the first pitch of the ninth inning before getting the final three outs.



# Padres notes: Hand rides slider; Castillo up to Petco for first time again

**Kevin Acee**

He threw it because it felt good and because it worked.

It really is that simple for [Padres](#) closer [Brad Hand](#), who used his slider significantly more in May than April and used it to convert all 11 of his save opportunities en route to being named the [National League](#) Pitcher of the Month.

“It’s a cool accomplishment,” said Hand, who also won the award last July. “The team played well in May, so I got opportunities to get saves.”

As for throwing his slider 60.2 percent of the time (up from 52.6 percent in March and April), Hand talks after many appearances about how his pitch selection depends to a great degree on how the slider feels that particular night. The slider felt good pretty much every one of the 13 times he pitched last month.

“It’s a good pitch for me,” the lefty said. “But at the same time there might be a month I throw more fastballs. ... Situation will dictate it too. If it’s a tight situation, that’s my out pitch, so I’ll go to it more.”

Hand tends to pitch in tight circumstances. In addition to the 11 save situations, he also pitched the ninth and 10<sup>th</sup> inning of a tie game. He also got himself in some trouble, allowing at least one baserunner in nine of his 13 May appearances. (He stranded all eight runners he inherited and allowed just one run in 14 2/3 innings.)

Another thing that improves his slider’s effectiveness is a fastball that is faster, up on average 1.3 mph (92.7 to 94 mph) over his past 10 appearances versus his first 16. He has routinely been hitting 94-95 mph in May where he was sitting 91-93.

“Hitters have to respect the velocity,” pitching coach [Darren Balsley](#) said.

“As the season goes on, he’s one of those guys who his arm gets into better shape,” catcher [Austin Hedges](#) said. “He starts throwing mid-90s, that slider becomes more of a weapon.”

## Castillo back again for debut

Left-handed reliever Jose Castillo was called up from Triple-A El Paso on Saturday and is in line to become the seventh Padres pitcher to make his major league debut this season.

Whenever he does, it will not be Castillo’s first time facing major league hitters nor his first time pitching in a crucial situation at Petco Park.

In March of 2017, pitching for Venezuela in a [World Baseball Classic](#) game against the United States, Castillo entered in a 1-0 game and closed out the sixth inning with successive strikeouts of Christian Yelich and Nolan Arrenado.

The 22-year-old, acquired in the 2015 trade that also brought Wil Myers to the Padres, is 6-foot-5 and 246 pounds. His fastball hits upper 90s, and he has refined his slider this year.

“I’m really excited,” said catcher Austin Hedges, who saw Castillo pitch up close during his recent rehab assignment in Triple-A. “It’s real. Fastball to both sides of the plate, a slider he can throw anytime. It’s a really polished arm for a young kid – a very big kid.”

Castillo’s arrival gives the Padres nine relievers. That will allow rest for some pitchers who have pitched (and/or warmed up) a lot lately. The hope is it also helps set up the Padres for a “bullpen” game Wednesday against the [Braves](#) as they seek to fill the rotation spot of Joey Lucchesi (hip strain) at least once more.

[Lockett](#) gets it

To make room for Castillo, the Padres optioned Walker Lockett to Triple-A, a day after he started and took the loss in his big-league debut.

Lockett, who was uncharacteristically wild in walking five batters and allowing four runs in 3 2/3 innings, was clearly severely disappointed but also pragmatic.

“In the back of your mind you know it could be a spot start, but you’re hopeful for another chance,” he said. “I’m grateful for the opportunity. I’m sure there is going to be another one. It’s the wave you’ve got to ride. These are the times I will look back on down the road when I’m having success up here.”

## Extra bases

- Hedges is working without setback (and without a cortisone shot) so far toward resuming a rehab assignment. For the first time since abandon his rehab stint last week due to recurring soreness in his right (throwing) elbow, Hedges hit off a tee and caught a bullpen session Saturday. He has been on the disabled list since May 1.
- Outfielder Franchy Cordero played catch for the first time since going on the DL on Monday with a right (throwing) forearm strain.
- Green started Franmil Reyes over [Hunter Renfroe](#) in right field Saturday against [Reds](#) right-hander [Matt Harvey](#), even as Renfroe is 6-for-12 in the past four games with all the hits coming against right-handers. Said Green: “Those are tough choices. They’re very similar profiles. Hunter has had very good at-bats, but you don’t want to forget about the guy who just had three home runs the previous three days. There will be some time-sharing going on.” Green said Reyes, who had started six straight games, needed a day of Friday, and with Renfroe just coming off the DL Monday, “a day off here or there is not a painful things for him either.”

# Minors

## Adrian Morejon pitches Storm to win

**Jeff Sanders**

**Adrian Morejon** looked plenty healthy Saturday night.

The 19-year-old left-hander tied a season high with seven strikeouts over six strong innings in [high Single-A Lake Elsinore's 5-1 win](#) over visiting Inland Empire.

Morejon, ranked No. 6 in the [Padres](#) system by MLB.com, missed a start last month with a sore neck.

He returned to the rotation with three runs allowed in five innings on May 27 and allowed one run on six hits and a walk in Saturday's start.

The effort improved his record to 3-3 and lowered his ERA to 3.57. Through 45 1/3 innings, Morejon has struck out 47, walked 16 and held opposing hitters to a .259 batting average.

**Buddy Reed** (.343) went 3-for-4 with a double and **Brad Zunica** (.238) hit his sixth homer and drove in two runs.

The Storm are 27-29.

### TRIPLE-A EL PASO (27-30)

- [Sacramento 8, Chihuahuas 4](#): LHP **Tyler Webb** (1-1, 2.40) allowed two runs in a five-run ninth in the loss. RHP **Jesse Scholtens** (9.74) allowed three runs in four innings in the start and LHP **Fred Schlitchholz** (0.00) debuted in the PCL with four strikeouts over three scoreless innings. 3B **Carlos**

**Asuaje** (.275), SS **Javy Guerra** (.194) and RF **Forrestt Allday** each had two hits.

## DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (34-21)

- **Springfield 11, Missions 6**: RHP **Colin Rea** (0-2, 10.32) allowed five runs on eight hits and a walk in 3 1/3 innings in his third post-TJ start and RHP **Lake Bachar**(6.75) allowed six runs in three innings. C **Austin Allen** (.318) hit his 12<sup>th</sup> homer and CF **Michael Gettys** (.258) hit his ninth.

## LOW SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (26-28)

- **TinCaps 5, Great Lakes 3**: LHP **Oswaldo Hernandez** (3-2, 2.20) struck out six over six shutout innings, scattering four hits and a walk. DH **Tirso Ornelas** (.266) drove in two runs on his fifth homer and LF **Robbie Podorsky** (.385) went 4-for-5 with a triple, an RBI, three runs scored and his seventh steal. 2B **Justin Lopez**(.247) went 3-for-3 with an RBI and a walk.

## ROOKIE DSL PADRES (0-1)

- **White Sox 8, Padres 5 (10)**: RHP **Eudi Asencio** (33.75) allowed five runs in 1 1/3 innings in the start and RHP **Afan Mundo** (0-1, 27.00) allowed three runs in the 10<sup>th</sup> in the loss. 1B **Emmanuel Guerra** (.333) and RF **Cristian Heredia** (.667) both hit their first homers.

## Transactions

- LHP **Jose Castillo** was recalled from El Paso as San Diego optioned RHP **Walker Lockett** to El Paso.
- LHP **Fred Schlichtholz** was transferred from extended [spring training](#) to El Paso.

# Impact on Padres' radar with Pick No. 7

**Jeff Sanders**

Long touted as the [Padres](#)' saving grace, A.J. Preller's highly-touted farm system pushed kids into San Diego's rotation and outfield before summer arrived. The majority of his top prospects are spread throughout his full-season affiliates, with some of the organization's biggest names – Fernando Tatis Jr., Luis Urias, Cal Quantrill, Logan Allen, Jacob Nix and Josh Naylor – residing at Double-A and above. He's got shortstops, left-handers, right-handers, center fielders and catchers all racing each other to San Diego.

As a rebuilding team, there isn't one pressing need as the Padres prepare for Monday's amateur draft.

The No. 7 overall pick also isn't the only consideration when mapping out just how to spend their \$10.46 million bonus pool, seventh-largest in this year's draft.

"Ultimately we're looking at Years 5-15," Padres scouting director Mark Conner said. "What's this player going to be in his major league career? There's something to taking an advanced bat or arm who could get there relatively quickly, but ultimately if his ceiling is not as high, you're not going to pass on a guy who has a chance to have more of an impact on the organization."

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## [MLB](#) DRAFT

*The Padres own four of the top-84 picks, giving them three first-day selections. Their \$10.46 million bonus pool is the seventh-largest. The suggested slot value for their No. 7 overall pick is \$5.23 million*

- **Day 1:** Round 1-Round 2 Comp (4 p.m., MLB Network / MLB.com)
- **Day 2:** Rounds 3-10 (10 a.m., MLB.com)
- **Day 3:** Rounds 11-40 (9 a.m., MLB.com)

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That's the real trick with each pick: Which player for what price?

Most draft experts have paired the [Tigers](#)' No. 1 overall pick with Auburn right-hander Casey Mize, a potential fast mover. Though teams' wish lists vary greatly from there, the Padres, at No. 7 overall, could have their pick of high school pitchers, both a strength of this class and often a preference for the brass in this regime.

Famously, high-schooler Clayton Kershaw was the jewel of Logan White's Dodgers drafts before joining Preller in San Diego as a senior advisor.

Here, the Padres went slightly over slot last year to sign high school lefty MacKenzie Gore to a \$6.7 million bonus, the largest the franchise has ever doled out to a draftee. They cut a deal a year earlier with a 17-year-old Potts, one of the youngest players in the draft, and used savings there to help reel in prep right-hander Reggie Lawson for \$1.9 million, more than double that year's slot value for the pick No. 71.

In addition to those picks, the Padres added Quantrill (No. 8), on the mend from Tommy John surgery, for just under \$4 million, college left-hander Eric Lauer (No. 25) for \$2 million and college center fielder Buddy Reed (No. 48) for \$1.075 million.

Expect similar gamesmanship this year after the [Phil Hughes](#) trade netted Pick No. 74 and another \$812,200 for the bonus pool, whether [Wichita State](#) slugger Alec Bohm falls to them, they snatch Matthew Liberatore (Ariz.) or Carter Stewart (Fla.) – the consensus top high school lefty and righty in the class – or cut deals to sign high-schoolers away from college commitments with any of their four selections inside the top-84 picks.

Here's seven possibilities for the seventh overall pick:

## **LHP Matthew Liberatore, Mountain Ridge HS (Ariz.)**

- The University of Arizona-commit is the Gatorade Arizona Baseball Player of the Year after going 8-1 with an 0.93 ERA and 104 strikeouts in 60 1/3 innings. The 6-foot-5 lefty pairs a mid-90s fastball with a good-spinning curve and a change-up.

## **3B Alec Bohm, Wichita State**

- The 6-foot-5, right-handed slugger has 16 homers, 55 RBIs and a .339/.436/.625 batting line through 57 games for the Shockers. He could be a riskier pick than South Alabama's Travis Swaggerty but the opportunity to add a potential 70-grade power bat to the system is intriguing.

## **RHP Carter Stewart, Eau Gallie HS (Fla.)**

- At 6-foot-6, Stewart parts a fastball that touches 98 mph with perhaps the best right-handed breaking ball in the whole class. The Mississippi State-committed Carter struck out 128 in 61 2/3 innings (0.91 ERA) as Florida's Gatorade Player of the Year.

## **LHP Ryan Weathers, Loretto HS (Tenn.)**

- The son of David Weathers, who pitched 19 years in the majors, fanned 148 batters in 76 innings (0.09 ERA) as Tennessee's Gatorade Player of the Year. He pairs a low-90s fastball with a curve and a change-up. Weathers is committed to Vanderbilt.

## **RHP Cole Winn, Orange Lutheran HS (Calif.)**

- California's Gatorade Player of the Year has a fastball that sits 93-94 mph, a 12-to-6 curve and a low-80s slider. He moved to California for his senior year after



he was named [Colorado State](#)'s high school pitcher of the year as a junior. Winn is committed to TCU.

## **OF Jarred Kelenic, Waukesha West HS (Wis.)**

- Perhaps the best high school bat, the 18-year-old, left-handed-hitting Kelenic is a five-tool prospect committed to Louisville. He starred the previous two years for Team USA's 18-and-under team.

## **3B Nolan Gorman, Sandra Day O'Connor HS (Ariz.)**

- Although questions about his hit tool persist, potential 70-grade power from the left side is the kind of upside play that these Padres like to dream on. Gorman is committed to the University of Arizona.

# Lauer's sharp outing gets plenty of run support

By AJ Cassavell

SAN DIEGO -- On the eve of his 23rd birthday, [Eric Lauer](#) was sharp for five innings. The rookie left-hander worked crisply and effectively Saturday night, allowing one run on five hits, while striking out four in the Padres' 8-2 victory over the Reds at Petco Park.

This was the version of Eric Lauer the Padres had been searching for. This was the version of Eric Lauer they need to see more consistently.

'It's something to build off of for me, more than anything,' Lauer said. 'I definitely want to go longer into games. But being able to show that I can get through five and get through tough situations ... it's just something to build off of.'

Lauer has shown flashes of his potential this season. Too often, that potential has been masked by his struggles. It's understandable. Lauer was just the second pitcher from the 2016 Draft to arrive in the big leagues, and he's seen his share of growing pains.

On Saturday, Lauer reminded the Padres why he's worth a look. He spotted his low-90s fastball perfectly and saw an uptick in its velocity from the past few starts. His breaking pitches kept Reds hitters off balance, too.

'It's great for his confidence,' Padres manager Andy Green said. 'I think now we want to stack a good one on top of a good one. That'll be the next challenge.'

Lauer allowed only a game-tying solo homer to Reds catcher [Curt Casali](#) in the top of the second. The Padres' answer was swift. They scored four runs in the bottom of the frame off Reds starter [Matt Harvey](#).

[Manuel Margot](#)'s bases-loaded double put the Friars back on top. [Travis Jankowski](#) tacked on an RBI single later in the frame, and the Padres led, 5-1. Jankowski played a role in all three Padres run-scoring rallies, sparking two and putting the finishing touches on the one in the second.

'He's on base repetitively for us,' Green said. '... Travis is playing really, really well. There's not much else you can ask of him.'

That was plenty of support for Lauer and an equally effective bullpen. [Adam Cimber](#), [Craig Stammen](#) and [Jose Castillo](#) worked scoreless frames. Castillo, recalled from Triple-A El Paso earlier in the day, put forth an [all-time great big league debut](#).

Pitching the eighth inning, the 22-year-old rookie struck out [Joey Votto](#), [Eugenio Suarez](#) and [Adam Duvall](#) in order. He became just the third Padre in history to strike out each of the first three hitters he faced, joining Jeremy Fikac (2001) and [Tommy Layne](#) (2012).

After an encouraging night for one young Padres left-hander, Castillo doubled the sense of optimism.

'That was cool, wasn't it?' Lauer said of Castillo's debut. 'That was awesome. It's cool to be a part of it, because I've seen it first-hand. I've been with a ton of these guys that are coming up. I was one of those guys. You just hope to see these guys stick and hope to have a culture change where we help turn this club around.'

#### **MOMENTS THAT MATTERED**

Mar-going the other way: Margot has been mired in something of a season-long funk at the plate. After a standout rookie campaign, he entered Saturday's game hitting .206. But with two hits Saturday, Margot is batting .333 (9-for-27) over his last nine games. His opposite-field double plated two in the second. He tacked on a single through the right side in the sixth.

Singles night: The Padres put the game on ice with a three-run seventh in which the first five batters all reached base via singles. Jankowski led off with a hit, then swiped second and scored when an [Eric Hosmer](#) bouncer snuck past Reds second baseman [Scooter Gennett](#). Three batters later, [Matt Szczur](#)'s bases-loaded single plated two runs and gave the Padres an 8-1 lead.

#### **YOU GOTTA SEE THIS**

Lauer's pickoff move is becoming a bona fide weapon. With two outs in the third, Lauer allowed a single to Votto. Three pitches later, he caught Votto straying from first base. It was Lauer's fifth pickoff this season, tying him with Atlanta's [Julio Teheran](#) for the most in the Majors. The Padres' 11 pickoffs are the most by a team.

#### **HE SAID IT**

'I gave him a really easy batter for the first one he faced. That guy's as good as they come. It's fun in and of itself for your first strikeout to be Joey Votto. There's probably not too many pitchers who can actually say that.' -- Green, on Castillo

#### **UP NEXT**

[Tyson Ross](#) has been the anchor of the Padres rotation, and he's coming off a start in which he threw only 87 pitches in a Padres victory over Miami. He gets the ball Sunday against the Reds with first pitch slated for 3:10 p.m. PT. [Luis Castillo](#) starts for Cincinnati.

# Castillo strikes out side in Major League debut

Lefty reliever promoted from Triple-A after Lockett is optioned

**SAN DIEGO -- Walker Lockett's first stint in the big leagues was a short one. If Jose Castillo pitches like he did Saturday night, his stay could last quite a bit longer.**

The Padres optioned Lockett to Triple-A El Paso on Saturday, a day after the 24-year-old right-hander made his big league debut. They called up lefty reliever Castillo in his place, and he put forth a dominant debut.

Called upon in the eighth inning of an 8-2 Padres victory, Castillo struck out the heart of the Reds lineup in order -- Joey Votto, Eugenio Suarez and Adam Duvall.

'I came in with the mentality of not really thinking about names, not really thinking about who I was facing, and just treating everyone as another hitter," Castillo said. 'Luckily I was able to get those results.'

Castillo became just the third Padre in history to strike out each of the first three hitters he faced, joining Jeremy Fikac (2001) and Tommy Layne (2012). Having pitched Friday for El Paso, Castillo will get the day off Sunday, manager Andy Green said. He could use the rest. Castillo learned of his impending callup with a 2 a.m. phone call.

'With the time difference, it was 5 o'clock in the morning in Venezuela," Castillo said. 'So I called [my family] right away and woke them up. It was really emotional.'

It wasn't the first time Castillo pitched in a dramatic setting at Petco Park. During the 2017 World Baseball Classic, he entered a tight game between Venezuela and the United States and proceeded to strike out Christian Yelich and Nolan Arenado.

'You could see the stuff really quickly, how real it is," Green said. 'I remember watching him punch out Yelich and Arenado last year -- those guys are all right, too.'

Castillo, 22, was part of the deal that brought Wil Myers to San Diego in 2014. In 19 appearances between Double-A and Triple-A this season, he has a 2.31 ERA with 35 strikeouts and nine walks over 23 1/3 innings. Since his promotion to El Paso, he has a 1.08 ERA in seven appearances.

'He's a guy we've wanted to look at," Green said. 'He's going to give us an opportunity to protect our bullpen arms and get out here and pitch. He can turn that opportunity into whatever he makes of it.'

Lockett, meanwhile, returns to El Paso with one big league start under his belt. He allowed four runs over 3 2/3 innings on four hits and an uncharacteristic five walks. Lockett hadn't walked five hitters at any level since August 2015.

'For Lockett, it's go down, get back to work, get back to attacking the strike zone, and when the opportunity presents itself again, he could have another chance," Green said.

## Hand named NL's top reliever for May

A's closer converts all 10 May save chances; Friars' fireman posts 11 saves and a hold

By Chad Thornburg

Oakland's [Blake Treinen](#) and San Diego's [Brad Hand](#) were honored for their May performances as The Hartford American League and National League Relievers of the Month on Saturday.

Since arriving in Oakland in a trade with the Nationals last July, Treinen has excelled pitching out of the A's bullpen. This season, the right-hander is 2-1 with a 0.99 ERA and 13 saves through 22 appearances (27 1/3 innings). He's struck out 33 batters against eight walks.

Treinen, 29, was at his best in May, allowing just one earned run in 15 1/3 innings and converting all 10 save opportunities. He also earned a win with a scoreless, two-inning appearance on May 2 in Seattle.

Hand, an All-Star in his second season with the Padres in 2017, entered Saturday ranked second in the NL with 17 saves -- trailing only the Rockies' [Wade Davis](#) (18), the Red Sox's [Craig Kimbrel](#) (18) and the Mariners' [Edwin Diaz](#) (19) in the Majors. He owns a 1.91 ERA through 26 appearances (28 1/3 innings) in '18.

The 28-year-old southpaw held his opponents to one run through 14 2/3 innings in May -- striking out 22 batters against seven walks with 11 saves and a hold en route to his second Reliever of the Month Award. Hand previously won the honor in July 2017.

# Padres call up reliever José Castillo, who fans first three batters in his debut

By Dennis Lin Jun 3, 2018

Darren Balsley spent his spring roving between baseball diamonds and the bullpen area at the Peoria Sports Complex. That is nothing out of the ordinary. Each preseason, Balsley oversees the progressions of dozens of pitchers.

But this particular spring, Balsley might have ventured past the major-league practice fields more frequently than in prior years. The crowd milling around a four-field cloverleaf designated for minor leaguers included various instructors, front-office personnel, rival scouts and, on more than a few occasions, the Padres' 16th-year pitching coach.

"I've been here a long time," Balsley said as he stood in the home dugout at Petco Park. "I've seen a lot of pitching depth in the organization. I think at this point we have more than we've ever had."

Even as the majority of that depth remains off in the distance, the Padres have waded into continuous evaluation of young arms. On Saturday, the club optioned a prospect back to Triple A and recalled another from the same level.

A few hours before the Padres' 8-2 victory over the Cincinnati Reds, Walker Lockett exchanged handshakes on his way out of the home clubhouse. The 24-year-old had made his major-league debut the previous night, contending with a case of the jitters as he yielded four runs in 3 2/3 innings. Now, with the bullpen in need of reinforcement, he was returning to Triple-A El Paso.

Meanwhile, a fresh No. 65 jersey hung in a newly assigned locker. Left-handed reliever José Castillo was up next.

Castillo, 22, already had passed a substantial test at Petco Park. On March 15, 2017, the Venezuela native took the mound here in a World Baseball Classic matchup with the U.S. His professional experience consisted of 154 2/3 innings — none above High A — and a stint in the Venezuelan Winter League.

His challenge that night, with two on and one out in the sixth: Preserve a 1-0 lead while facing a pair of feared major leaguers.

Castillo struck out Christian Yelich on five pitches. Then he won a seven-pitch encounter, [getting Nolan Arenado to flail at a slider](#).

"Since I watched him in the WBC," Padres manager Andy Green said, "I've been asking everybody about him."

"The most impressive thing for me is, in the WBC, how well he performed on a big stage," Balsley said. "That's the rep on him. The bigger the game, the better he is."

Like Lockett, a former fourth-round draft pick, Castillo comes with some pedigree. The Tampa Bay Rays signed him on the international market for \$1.55 million in 2012. The Padres acquired him before the 2015 season in the trade that brought Wil Myers to San Diego. Castillo has spent the intervening time on a steady ascent.

Saturday brought a reunion with a one-time opponent. On that March evening last year in downtown San Diego, Castillo re-emerged for the bottom of the seventh. Eric Hosmer greeted him with a leadoff single.

Castillo was immediately lifted from the game. Given his age and the setting, his two-thirds of an inning still qualified as impressive.

This spring, Hosmer signed a record contract with San Diego. At the Peoria Sports Complex, he shared a clubhouse with Castillo, who had received a big-league invitation. The latter began his season in Double A, earned a mid-May promotion to El Paso and logged a 1.08 ERA over seven appearances in the Pacific Coast League.

The frame (6 feet 5, 246 pounds) and the repertoire (a mid-90s fastball, complemented by a sharp slider) belong to a pitcher with late-inning potential.

“A lot of times, you don’t see lefties throwing that hard,” Hosmer said before Saturday’s game. “The stuff that’s coming out of there is real.”

In the eighth inning, Castillo backed that assessment. His challenge on this night, with the Padres leading by seven runs: Face the heart of the Reds’ order.

Castillo struck out perennial MVP candidate Joey Votto on five pitches. The next batter, Eugenio Suárez, met the same fate. Finally, Adam Duvall waved at the sixth pitch he saw. Castillo walked off the field to a standing ovation.

“To shake a 10-year veteran catcher in the big leagues [Padres catcher A.J. Ellis] and say, ‘No, I want to throw a 3-1 slider to Duvall,’ and land it and then throw a fastball by him, you don’t see that very often,” Green said. “Conviction’s better than any other ingredient a pitcher can have, and he’s got that.”

In the postgame clubhouse, Castillo smiled as he recounted a day that had begun at 2 a.m. in El Paso. Triple-A manager Rod Barajas had woken the reliever with a phone call. Castillo, in turn, immediately dialed family members in Venezuela.

“It was really emotional,” Castillo said through an interpreter. “It’s a dream for every baseball player that I was able to reach.”

About 19 hours later, Castillo became the third Padres pitcher to strike out each of the first three batters he faced in his major-league debut, joining Jeremy Fikac (Aug. 16, 2001) and Tommy Layne (Aug. 14, 2012). Castillo is the first Venezuelan-born reliever ever to face three batters in his debut and strike out all of them.

“I came in with the mentality of not really thinking about names, not really thinking about who I was facing and treating everyone like just another hitter, and luckily I was able to get those results,” Castillo said.

Said Padres starter Eric Lauer: “That was cool, wasn’t it? Holy crap, man, that was awesome.”

Lauer, who will turn 23 on Sunday, could take satisfaction in his own performance. After vacillating between competitive outings and shellackings over his first seven big-league starts, the left-hander threw five innings of one-run ball. In the first inning, his fastball sat around 93 mph and touched 95. Entering the game, the pitch’s average velocity was just above 90 mph.

“I told myself that I just wanted to really let myself throw my own game, not have to really worry about the scouting report or be afraid to shake off A.J. or anything,” said Lauer, who also contributed his first career RBI with a sacrifice fly. “Honestly, I was really just trying to let it eat the first couple innings.”

Through eight starts, the learning curve has been obvious for Lauer. He lowered his ERA on Saturday to 6.82. Opponents have batted .347 off him.

But the Padres intend to practice patience with the lefty, and with other young arms as well. Lauer and teammate Joey Lucchesi are the first two pitchers drafted in 2016 to reach the majors.

“He can get big-league hitters out,” Green said of Lauer. “We know it, and we know there will be growing pains along the way. But there’s a lot to like there.”

In terms of newness to the stage, Lauer is far from alone. Castillo is the seventh Padres pitcher to make his major-league debut this year. More should join them before the end of the season. Lockett could receive another chance. By late November, the Padres likely will add prospects such as Jacob Nix and Trey Wingenter to the 40-man roster, in order to protect them from the Rule 5 draft.

“I’ve been with a ton of these guys that are coming up, and I was one of those guys that came up,” Lauer said. “You just hope to see these guys stick and kind of have the little culture change to where we turn this club around. We’ve got a lot of good guys in this clubhouse right now as it is. Everybody wants to win, nobody in here wants to lose. The more we can win, the better this clubhouse will be.”

Balsley, speaking before the game, could not remember this many introductions so early in a season.

“You don’t actually know what you have until they get up here,” the pitching coach said. “It’s nice that there’s a lot of debuts this year.”



# Lauer's strong outing carries Padres to 8-2 win vs Reds

9:37 PM PT

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO -- It was a big night for a pair of 22-year-old rookie left-handers with the rebuilding [San Diego Padres](#).

[Eric Lauer](#) got things started when he pitched five strong innings, drove in his first run and picked off [Joey Votto](#) to tie for the big league lead, helping the Padres to an 8-2 victory against the [Cincinnati Reds](#).

Jose Castillo had an impressive MLB debut by striking out the side in the eighth, starting with fanning Votto on a 95-mph fastball.

"That was cool, wasn't it?" Lauer said of his new teammate, who was recalled from Triple-A El Paso earlier in the day.

The 22-year-old Castillo was acquired along with [Wil Myers](#) from Tampa Bay in a three-team, 11-player trade on Dec. 18, 2014. He became the ninth Padres player -- and seventh pitcher -- to debut this season.

"It's cool to be a part of it. I've seen it firsthand," Lauer said. "I've been with a ton of these guys that are coming up. I was one of those guys that came up. You just hope to see these guys stick and kind of have a little culture change to where we turn this club around. We've got a lot of good guys in this clubhouse right now as it is. Everybody wants to win. Nobody in here wants to lose. The more we can win, the better this clubhouse will be."

Lauer (2-3) won for the first time in five starts. He has largely struggled since making his MLB debut on April 24, but put together a nice outing and was backed by a four-run second inning against [Matt Harvey](#) (1-4). Lauer allowed one run on five hits, struck out four and walked two. He came in with a 7.67 ERA and lasted only 2 1/3 innings in his previous start, a 7-2 loss to Miami on Monday.

Lauer's only real mistake was allowing [Curt Casali](#)'s solo homer in his first Reds at-bat with one out in the second. Casali was acquired from Tampa Bay on Thursday and was added to the 25-man roster on Friday.

Votto singled with two outs in the third and was picked off by Lauer, who tied Atlanta's [Julio Teheran](#) with five pickoffs, the most in the majors. The Padres lead the big leagues with 11 pickoffs. "I think from an overall standpoint, I helped the team in more aspects. The RBI and pickoff are kind of bonuses, I think. I still need to get through more innings. Overall, though, it's one of those outings where you look back and I helped the team in multiple ways."

Castillo first showed flashes of what he can be when he pitched for Venezuela in the 2017 World Baseball Classic.

"Fun. I gave him a really easy batter the first one he faced," manager Andy Green joked about having Castillo start off against Votto. "The guy's as good as it comes. That's fun in and of itself, the first strikeout being Joey Votto. There's probably not too many pitchers who can actually say that. And to punch out the whole side; we've been talking about him for some time, since he's been acquired but also since I watched him in the WBC. Finally his time has come for a chance at the big league level and he seized it."

Castillo said having played in the WBC helped him handle the pressure of his debut.

"I think I came in with the mentality of not really thinking about names, not really thinking about who I was facing and treating everyone like just another hitter and luckily I was able to get those results," he said through a translator.

He didn't need a translator to describe his overall feelings.

"Very happy," he said.

With the score tied at 1, the Padres loaded the bases with no outs against Harvey in the second, on singles by rookie [Franmil Reyes](#) and [Freddy Galvis](#), and a walk by [A.J. Ellis](#). [Manuel Margot](#) hit a two-run double down the right-field line. Lauer followed with a sacrifice fly for his first RBI and [Travis Jankowski](#) added an RBI single.

Harvey allowed five runs -- four earned -- and six hits in five innings, struck out three and walked one.

Harvey said things "just kind of unraveled in that second inning. It's frustrating, the last two starts I've had, one inning is really causing a lot of the damage. I think I got through the first inning fine, then kind of became mechanical and slowed everything down a little bit instead of just getting after it. Once I sped up my mechanics and stopped worrying about staying back or staying closed and this and that it was a completely different ballgame."

The Padres added on against the Reds' bullpen when they opened the seventh with five straight singles. [Eric Hosmer](#) drove in one run and [Matt Szczur](#) had a two-run base hit.

Cincinnati's [Scott Schebler](#) homered on [Phil Hughes](#)' first pitch of the ninth. It was his seventh.

## TRAINER'S ROOM

Reds: Placed RHP [Homer Bailey](#) on the 10-day disabled list with right knee inflammation and reinstated RHP [Austin Brice](#) (mid-back) from the DL.

## UP NEXT

Reds: RHP [Luis Castillo](#) (4-5, 5.49) is scheduled to start the series finale Sunday. The Reds have won four of his last five starts and he's won three of his last four decisions.

Padres: RHP [Tyson Ross](#) (4-3, 3.29) is 4-0 with a 1.20 ERA in five appearances, including four starts, against the Reds.

# #PadresOnDeck: Gettys, Allen, Ornelas, Zunica Continue Homer Streaks

LHPs Morejon, Hernandez sharp; Schlichholz makes impressive Triple-A debut

*By Bill Center*

**Michael Gettys** homered in a third straight game while **Austin Allen**, **Tirso Ornelas** and **Brad Zunica** homered for a second straight game Saturday night in the Padres' farm system while left-handed starts **Adrian Morejon** and **Oswaldo Hernandez** turned in excellent starts.

Center fielder Gettys, the [Padres' No.28 prospect according to MLB Pipeline](#), was 2-for-4 with a solo homer for Double-A San Antonio. Over his last three games, Gettys is 5-for-12 with a homer in each game with four RBIs to raise his batting average to .258 with nine homers.

Catcher Allen, the [Padres' No.27 prospect](#), had a homer in three at-bats for San Antonio. He is hitting .318 after going 3-for-7 with two homers in the last two games for three RBIs.

Outfielder Ornelas, 18, the [Padres' No.13 prospect](#), hit a two-run homer in five at-bats for Single-A Fort Wayne. Ornelas (.266) is 3-for-9 the last two games with five RBIs off the two homers.

Zunica was 2-for-4 Saturday night for Advanced Single-A Lake Elsinore. He is 3-for-6 the past two games with his fifth and sixth homers with five RBIs, three runs scored and two walks and is hitting .238.

There were three notable pitching performances Saturday night:

— Morejon, 19, the [Padres' sixth-ranked prospect](#), allowed one run on six hits and a walk with seven strikeouts in six innings for Lake Elsinore to improve to 3–3 while lowering his earned run average to 3.57.

— Hernandez, 20, allowed four hits and a walk with six strikeouts in six scoreless innings for Fort Wayne. He is 3–2 with the TinCaps with a 2.20 ERA.

— And **Fred Schlichtholz**, 22, a Coronado High grad and the Padres' 13th-round draft pick last June, worked three scoreless innings of relief in his debut with Triple-A El Paso. Schlichtholz, who was promoted to the Chihuahuas from Extended Spring training Saturday, gave up two hits with four strikeouts.

Right-handed starter **Colin Rea** (0–2, 10.32 ERA) made his third rehab start with San Antonio and allowed five runs on eight hits and a walk with three strikeouts in 3 1/3 innings.

#### *Around the Farm:*

TRIPLE-A EL PASO (27–30): Sacramento 8, CHIHUAHUAS 4— Starting RHP **Jesse Scholtens** (9.74 ERA) allowed three runs on four hits and two walks with four strikeouts in four innings. LHP **Tyler Webb** (1–1, 2.40) allowed two runs on two hits with two strikeouts in an inning to suffer the loss. RHP **Robert Stock** (3.07) allowed three runs (one earned) on two hits with two strikeouts in an inning. SS **Javy Guerra** (.194) was 2-for-4 with a double and a RBI. RF **Forrestt Allday** (.222) was 2-for-4 with a double and a run scored. PH **Allen Craig** (.246) had a two-run single. 3B **Carlos Asuaje** (.275) was 2-for-5. 2B **Luis Urías** (.265) was 1-for-4 with a walk and a RBI. LF **Shane Petetrson** (.244) was 1-for-3 with a walk and two runs scored.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (34–21): SPRINGFIELD 11, Missions 6— RHP **Lake Bachar** (6.75 ERA) followed Rea and gave up six runs on nine hits and two walks with two strikeouts in three innings. RHP **Trevor Frank** (1.13) struck out one in 1 2/3 scoreless innings. RF **Rod Boykin** (.226) backed Allen and Gettys, going 1-for-2 with a run scored. SS **Fernando Tatis Jr.** (.261) was 1-for-4 with a run scored. 2B **Peter Van Gansen** (.291) was 1-for-3 with a double and a walk. LF **Josh Naylor** (.313) was 1-for-4 with a walk.

ADVANCED SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (27–29): STORM 5, Inland Empire 1— LF **Buddy Reed** (.343) backed Zunica, going 3-for-4 with a double. C **Luis Torrens** (.265) had a double in four at-bats with a RBI and a run scored. DH **Greg Lambert** (.143) was 1-for-3 with a run scored. 3B **Hudson Potts** (.262) was 1-for-4 with a run scored. RHP **Blake Rogers** (3.45 ERA) followed Morejon and struck out two in a perfect inning. RHP **Elliot Ashbeck** (1.80) allowed a hit and a walk with two strikeouts in two perfect innings.

SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (26–28): TinCaps 5, GREAT LAKES 3— LF **Robbie Podorsky** (.385) backed Ornelas, going 4-for-5 with a triple, a stolen base, three runs scored and a RBI. 2B **Justin Lopez** (.247) was 3-for-3 with two walks and a RBI. CF **Jeisson Rosario** (.272) was 1-for-4 with a walk and a run scored. RF **Jack Suwinski** (.214) was 1-for-4. RHP **Jordan Guerrero** (4.00 ERA) followed Hernandez and allowed a run on two hits in an inning. RHP **Diomar Lopez** (18.00) gave up two runs on a hit and a walk with two strikeouts in an inning. RHP **Evan Miller** (0.40 ERA) allowed two hits with two strikeouts in a scoreless inning for his first save.

DOMINICAN SUMMER LEAGUE PADRES (0-1): White Sox 9, PADRES 5 (10 innings)—  
1B **Emmanuel Guerra** was 1-for-3 with a homer, three RBIs, a walk and a stolen base.  
C **Brandon Valenzuela** was 3-for-5 with a double, a RBI and a run scored. RF **Cristian Heredia** was 2-for-3 with a homer and two walks. SS **Yeison Santana** was 2-for-5 with a run scored.

# Padres On Deck: Hitters Reyes, Tatis Jr.; Pitchers Perdomo, Allen, Paddack lead Padres Players of the Month

*By Bill Center*

A player with now the Padres and one who was earlier this season plus three of the club's Top 10 prospects headline the Padres On Deck Players and Pitchers of the Month for May.

Outfielders **Franmil Reyes** (Triple-A El Paso) and **Buddy Reed** (Advanced Single-A El Paso) and infielders **Fernando Tatis Jr.** (Double-A San Antonio) and **Esteury Ruiz** (Single-A Fort Wayne) are the Players of the Month in the Padres' system.

The Pitchers of the Month are **Luis Perdomo** (El Paso), **Logan Allen** (San Antonio), **Chris Paddack** (Lake Elsinore) and **Nick Margevicius** (Fort Wayne).

Tatis (Nº1), Allen (Nº8), Ruiz (Nº10) and Paddack (Nº21) are all members of the Padres' Top-30 prospect list assembled by the [MLB Pipeline](#).

The Padres Minor League Players and Pitchers of the Month for May

TRIPLE-A EL PASO:

**Player:** Right fielder Franmil Reyes— Before being promoted to the Padres on May 14, Reyes was 23-for-41 (.561) with four doubles and nine homers in 12 games for the Chihuahuas. His nine homers equaled the most in the Pacific Coast League in May. He also scored 17 runs and drive in 18 with 10 walks against only eight strikeouts. He had a .647 on-base percentage with a 1.317 slugging percentage for a 1.964 OPS.

**Pitcher:** Right-handed starter Luis Perdomo— Optioned by the Padres to the Chihuahuas in April, Perdomo was 2–1 with a 1.95 earned run average in four May starts before going on the disabled list with right shoulder inflammation. Perdomo allowed eight runs (six earned) on 18 hits and six

walks with 22 strikeouts in 27 2/3 innings. He had a 0.97 WHIP for the month and a .182 opponents' batting average.

#### DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO

Player: Shortstop Fernando Tatis—At 19, the youngest player in the Texas League, Tatis was 41-for-122 in May (.336) with 12 doubles, two triples, seven home runs, 30 runs scored and 16 RBIs with 13 walks and five steals. He raised his batting average from .180 to .266 during May. He had a .414 on-base percentage and a .639 slugging percentage for the month for a 1.054 OPS.

Pitcher: Left-handed starter Logan Allen—In addition to turning 21 on May 23, Allen was 4–1 during the month with a 3.32 ERA in six starts. He also had a 1.13 WHIP and a .206 opponents' batting average. Allen gave up 15 runs (14 earned) on 28 hits and 15 walks with 46 strikeouts in 38 innings.

#### ADVANCED SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE

Player: Outfielder Buddy Reed—The swift 23-year-old hit .308 for the month (33-for-107) with 19 runs scored and 19 RBIs. He had eight doubles, three triples and four homers during May while drawing nine walks and stealing 11 bases. He had a .364 on-base percentage and a .551 slugging percentage for a .916 OPS for the month.

Pitcher: Right-handed starter Chris Paddack—The start of Paddack's season was delayed until the end of April as he completed rehab from 2016 "Tommy John" surgery. But the 22-year-old opened the season pitching 21 2/3 straight scoreless innings. He was 2–1 in five starts in May with a 2.81 ERA, a 0.90 WHIP and a .221 opponents' batting average. He allowed eight runs on 21 hits in 25 2/3 innings. One truly incredible stat from his May. He issued two walks while striking out 44 for a 22-to-1 ratio.

#### SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE

Player: Infielder Esteury Ruiz—The 19-year-old native of the Dominican Republic hit only .258 (25-for-97) in May. But he drew 13 walks, stole 11 bases and had eight doubles, two triples and two home runs while scoring 12 runs and driving in 14. He had a .364 on-base percentage with a .443 slugging percentage for a .800 OPS.

Pitcher: Left-handed starter Nick Margevicius—The 21-year-old was a seventh-round pick in the 2017 draft out of Rider University. He was 3–1 in four starts in May with a 2.16 ERA, 1.08 WHIP and .247 opponents' batting average. He allowed eight runs (six earned) on 24 hits and three walks with 30 strikeouts in 25 innings. That's a 10–1 strikeout-to-walk ratio.



# Takeaways from the Padres' 8-2 win over the Reds

John Horvath FOX Sports San Diego Jun 3, 2018 at 1:03a ET

SAN DIEGO— Eric Lauer threw five solid innings, the Padres scored four runs in the second, and Jose Castillo struck out the side in his big league debut to lift the Padres to an 8-2 victory over the Reds in front of 31,710 at Petco Park.

San Diego improved to 26-34 while Cincinnati fell to 21-38.

## Takeaways

### Lauer throws five good innings

Prior to Saturday's start against the Cincinnati Reds, Andy Green stressed a need for consistency and more conviction from left-hander Eric Lauer:

"It is conviction over perfection. Just throw every pitch with conviction and believe that you can have success," the skipper said. "Just go out on the attack, and good things have happened when he has pitched like that."

Lauer followed Green's comments with a solid start, throwing five innings of five-hit, one-run ball. He struck out four and walked two, throwing 51 of his 87 pitches for strikes.

The only run that the Ohio native allowed came off the bat of catcher Curt Casali, who hit a 370-foot solo shot in the top of the second. Lauer did not record a 1-2-3 inning on the evening, but he did record his MLB-leading fifth pickoff in the top of the third.

One of the more encouraging signs from Lauer's start was that his fastball velocity seemed to be up a tick. In the first few innings, the rookie reached 95 on the radar gun on occasion, mostly sitting 92-93.

His average fastball velocity on the evening was 91.2 mph. Five days ago against Miami, it was 89.5.

All in all, it was a good bounce-back effort from Eric Lauer and a step in the right direction. He earned his second career win.

"I thought his curveball was better than it has been. Competed well. Got through five innings, gave up one run," Green reflected. "There were some real good flashes in there."

### The decisive second inning

In the top of the second, Curt Casali homered off Eric Lauer to even the game at one apiece. A manufactured run by the Padres in the bottom of the first had been wiped away with one swing of the bat.

San Diego made sure the game would not be tied for long.

[Franmil Reyes](#) led off the bottom half of the second with an 113.3 mph single up the middle off Reds starter [Matt Harvey](#). [Freddy Galvis](#) and [A.J. Ellis](#) followed with a single and a walk respectively to load the bases for [Manuel Margot](#).

Margot took the first two pitches for strikes, falling behind 0-2 in the count. On the third pitch of the at-bat, the second year outfielder poked a two-run double to the opposite field.

It was an impressive display of hitting for someone who has obviously been struggling this season. Margot has been showing signs of breaking out, however. He entered hitting .304 ( 7-for-23) in his last eight ballgames, and added to that total on Saturday with a 2-for-4 evening.

Eric Lauer followed with his first career RBI: a sacrifice fly to right field. Following was Travis Jankowski, who plated the final run of the inning with an RBI single.

### **Adding on in the seventh**

Starting with a [Travis Jankowski](#) infield single, the Padres led off the seventh with five consecutive base hits, which plated three insurance runs.

[Eric Hosmer](#) and [Matt Szczur](#) recorded RBI hits in the inning.

### **Castillo strikes out side in debut**

With the Padres leading 8-1 in the 8th, manager Andy Green turned to left-handed reliever Jose Castillo. In what was his first MLB appearance, Castillo struck out [Joey Votto](#), [Eugenio Suarez](#), and [Adam Duvall](#) in order.

“I came in with the mentality of not thinking about names, not really thinking about who I was facing and treating everyone like just another hitter,” Castillo stated after the game. “Luckily I was able to get those results.”

It was a dominant and impressive first outing for the Venezuela native.