



# Padres Press Clips

Saturday, June 16, 2012

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## Bass, Padres routed by A's

By [Bill Center](#)

Originally published June 15, 2012 at 9:50 p.m., updated June 15, 2012 at 11 p.m.

OAKLAND — Anthony Bass looked a bit like the deer in the headlight.

“Let’s get this done,” the 24-year-old said in the Padres clubhouse Friday night after a fifth straight rough outing.

There was no animosity in his voice. He didn’t go off . . . and he could have.

Bass was fresh from giving up nine runs (seven earned) on eight hits and three walks in 5 1/3 innings as the Oakland A’s routed the Padres 10-2 in an interleague victory that halted the visitors’ season-best winning streak at three straight games.

Bass is 0-3 with an 8.89 earned run average in his last five starts after going 2-4 with a 2.94 ERA in his first eight starts. His ERA has climbed each month – 2.30 over six games (four starts) in April, 5.30 for six starts in May and 8.81 through his first three starts in June.

In fact, his ERA has climbed in six straight starts to the point where he is 2-7 with a 4.88 ERA. As recently as May 20, Bass had a 2.89 ERA.

Clearly, he is not the pitcher he was at the start of the season. And the Padres have to be concerned about possible damage to the psyche of a talented young man who was projected to work out of the bullpen this season.

“We thrust him into the rotation,” Padres manager Bud Black said. “He’s a tough kid. There are some hard knocks along the way. We have to watch his confidence.”

Appropriate, because Bass feels that part of his game is missing right now.

“When I am confident, I feel I can get anyone out,” said Bass. “But it’s tough when things are not going well. I’ve lost my confidence right now.

“It’s not fun at all. I’m going to find a way out of it. But right now. . . .”

Friday night was almost finished before it began. Bass has been plagued by big innings all season. Usually, however, they’ve come later in the game. This time he gave up a five-spot in the first after walking the first two hitters he faced.

Bass walked the first two A’s he faced on full-count pitches then gave up a two-run triple to Josh Reddick. After retiring Seth Smith, Brandon Ingle singled home Reddick. Brandon Moss followed by homering in a fourth straight game and the Padres were down 5-1.

“Out of the chute, he couldn’t execute the 3-and-2 strike to a pair of left-handed hitters who are their table setters,” said Black. “That put Anthony behind the eight ball.

“Tonight it came down to the command of his fastball. And his secondary pitches were erratic. You need to locate the fastball. There are enough good things going on at times to let him know he’s a major league quality pitcher. At other times, there are not.”

Friday night was one of those times. Sadly, this game was a progression rather than an isolated incident.

“I don’t know what it is,” Bass said recently while discussing several concerning trends to his 2012 season.

Friday night marked the second time this season than an opponent had scored five runs in the first off Bass.

Of the 50 runs scored on Bass this season, 38 have come in multiple-run innings – including all nine last night, although a pair of errors were contributing factors to a two of two-run innings.

Plus, Bass is 1-5 on the road this season with a 6.00 ERA in seven starts. Bass has given up 24 runs in 22 innings in his last four road starts after posting a 2.57 ERA in his first three road starts.

“The key is making better pitches in key situations,” Bass said recently.

As for the Padres offense, well, the A’s Travis Blackley pickup up his second major league win with the first coming in 2004. In between the Australian was 0-5 with a 7.62 ERA in just 17 games.

The Padres got off to a promising start Friday.

Everth Cabrera drew a one-out walk – the ninth walk in his last 13 games addressing what has been a shortcoming in his game – and came around to score on back-to-back singles by Chase Headley and Carlos Quentin.

But the Padres stranded those two runners. And by the time Alexi Amarista tripled in the second and scored on Chris Denorfia’s single, the A’s had a healthy lead. The Padres had only two more baserunners over the final four innings against Blackley.

The eight-run loss is the second-worst of the season to the Padres 9-0 loss to the Mets at CitiField on May 26.

## Padres' TV stalemate in glacier-like mode

By [Nick Canepa](#)

Originally published June 15, 2012 at 5:27 p.m., updated June 15, 2012 at 9:07 p.m.

There are no winners here. It's a television war of attrition and not a very popular one. Fox Sports San Diego likes to think it's fired a shot over the antenna, but this really is more like dropping propaganda leaflets from the sky for the civilians to read — if they bother to pick them up off the ground.

As we know, FSSD, the new network in town, has a deal with the Padres that will pay the baseball team around \$1.2 billion over 20 years. Problem is, the only local providers who have bought into the package are Cox and DirecTV. Thinking the price too high (believed to be more than \$5 per customer as opposed to about \$1.50 in the old deal, although Fox disputes the \$5 figure), Time Warner, next to Cox the county's No. 2 provider, AT&T U-verse and Dish have refused.

And things are moving along about as swiftly as a Hoyt Wilhelm knuckle ball, but with very little movement.

According to Henry Ford, senior vice president and general manager of FSSD, negotiations continue with AT&T and Dish (AT&T confirms as much), but broke off long ago with Time Warner and the 200,000 or so homes it reaches here (Cox is around 500,000). Ford would like talks to renew, and has begun a negative marketing campaign to try and smoke Time Warner out of the bunker to the bargaining table, claiming the provider spends billions in other markets, but “the Padres do not seem to be a priority.”

With Fox's theme being “Our Home. Our City,” the network has gone to print, radio, mobile digital billboards, street teams and public events — at “considerable cost”, it says — to get out its message.

“It's an aggressive campaign to make people aware,” Ford says. “It's heartfelt. We've hired more than 50 people here. Our investment is significant for Padres games. We're living in the community. We have a beautiful setup at Petco. We hope to complete a real estate deal to where Cox was (adjacent to the ballpark).

“But we've gone dark with Time Warner. We would like Time Warner to step up.”

Fox has four trucks (mobile billboards) out driving around in Time Warner territory, spreading the word. They will be in heavily trafficked areas, such as the Del Mar Fair and shopping malls.

Time Warner's response via a spokesman? “Fans would be better served if Fox saved the money on trucks and lowered their current demands for the Padres.”

Thing is, Cox and DirecTV already are paying plenty, which obviously is more than Time Warner and the others want to give. So if Fox sells it to the others for less, Cox and DirecTV aren't going to be happy.

I'm told the Padres are putting some pressure on Fox (not a ton), but it really isn't their fight. If people want the Padres that badly, most county residents could switch to DirecTV. Over 40 percent of county residents can't get the team now, but that number was 30 percent before 2012. The Padres never have been available to everyone, but it also is obvious not enough people have switched to DirecTV to make Time Warner squirm and eventually cave.

“The Padres feel the same as we do,” Ford says. “At the end of the day, we’re in lock-step to make sure all our fans get the games. Our conversations with (AT&T and Dish) are very different. Discussions are ongoing and I suspect we’ll get something done there.”

Fox and Time Warner are billion-dollar companies that have things on their stoves other than the Padres. It’s a natural thing. For Fox to pay the club that much money, it had to ask for more dough from the providers. On the other hand, it isn’t helping Fox generate revenue when it can’t reach 40 percent of its market.

“We provided offers and I believe we made the last counter offer (with TW),” Ford says. “I can’t comment on rates. We’re not asking Time Warner to overpay. Time Warner continues to value teams in their other markets; look no further than Los Angeles, with the Lakers and Galaxy (and Pac-12 Networks).”

So who’s at fault here? Everyone, the Padres to a lesser extent. What club in the nation’s 28th largest market wouldn’t take a billion-dollar offer? And Fox has more leverage with distributors around the country than just about anyone else.

The Padres’ product at present may stink, but what’s there isn’t getting out. More than a third of Fox’s 157-game package has passed, and there are fans who want to watch the team. Taking a mulligan on 2012 isn’t what they expected. Not everyone can make it to Petco, nor can everyone go into a sports bar every night to catch games.

The Padres see this as a casualty in the short term, that over the next 19 years fans will benefit from the new deal. But it’s impossible for two sides to get anything done when the two sides aren’t talking, and they haven’t spoken for weeks.

“Once we get back to the table, good things can happen,” Ford says. “We have dealt with them regionally and nationally. It’s different (the campaign), but hopefully it personalizes it — not just for us, but the fans.”

There is far too much Can’t Do spirit in this town.

## Padres sign first-round pick Fried

By [Bill Center](#)

Originally published June 15, 2012 at 3:08 p.m., updated June 15, 2012 at 7:54 p.m.

Padres Assistant General Manager Chad MacDonald said Friday that he is confident all the Padres' top picks will come to terms with the club after No. 1 Max Fried accepted a \$3 million bonus to sign.

"We're making excellent progress," said MacDonald.

Thus far, the Padres have announced the signing of nine of the 14 players they drafted in the first 10 (plus supplemental) rounds.

Fried, 18, was the most notable signee announced Friday.

But the Padres also signed four other picks from the top 10 rounds, highlighted by catcher-first baseman-outfielder Dane Phillips of Oklahoma City University. Phillips was the 70th overall pick and the Padres' second, second-round pick — coming as compensation for losing closer Heath Bell (to Miami) through free agency.

Also signing with the Padres from the top 10 rounds of the draft were shortstop Jalen Goree (sixth round), right-handed pitcher Ramon Madrid (seventh round) and infielder River Stevens (ninth round).

Under baseball's new collective bargaining agreement, the Padres have just under \$9.91 million to spread among the players they drafted in the first 10 rounds. Each pick has an assigned value, although clubs are allowed to go over the slot on any individual player and up to 40 percent below the slot on any player they tender a contract.

The signing deadline has also been moved up a month and is July 13 this season.

"The new rules make it interesting," Padres General Manager Josh Byrnes said. "I like them. I know where we stand. Everyone knows where they stand."

Four of the Padres' top five picks remain unsigned — right-handed Florida high school pitchers Zach Eflin (33rd overall) and Walker Weickel (55th overall), center fielder Travis Jankowski (44th overall) and outfielder Jeremy Baltz (70th overall). Fourth-round pick Andrew Lockett, a right-handed pitcher, is also unsigned.

Jankowski is playing with Stony Brook University in the College World Series.

The 18-year-old Fried was 8-2 with a 2.02 ERA this season for Harvard-Westlake High School in Studio City. He had 105 strikeouts against 29 walks and 43 hits allowed in 66 innings. Fried played in the Perfect Game All-American Classic last year at Petco Park and was rated as the top left-handed pitcher in the draft.

Fried, who had a commitment to UCLA, is just the third high school pitcher selected by the Padres with their first pick since 1987. Fried was rated as having the best command among high school pitchers in the draft.

Phillips received a signing bonus of \$450,000. Third-round pick Fernando Perez, a shortstop with roots at Otay Ranch High, received \$400,000, and fifth-round pick Mallex Smith, a center fielder, received \$375,000. Goree received \$100,000.

### **Forsythe “day-to-day”**

Second baseman Logan Forsythe missed a second straight start Friday night with “abdominal side discomfort,” and Padres manager Bud Black said he might miss three to four starts.

“You can draw some similarities to the injury Will Venable suffered but not a lot,” Black said while discussing Forsythe. Venable last week missed four starts with what the Padres first feared might be an oblique strain. But treatment kept Venable off the disabled list.

Forsythe thinks he suffered the injury Tuesday night on the play that he stopped a Miguel Olivo grounder from rolling into right — saving the Padres a run in a 5-4 victory.

“It’s a tweak in my side, not a full-out strain,” said Forsythe. “It’s kind of the same sort of thing that Will had.”

## **On-Deck Saturday: Ohlendorf 12th to start for Padres**

By [Bill Center](#)

Friday, June 15, 2012

**OAKLAND — PADRES at A's**

**Time:** 1:05 p.m. **Game 2 of 3**

**TV:** Fox Sports San Diego

**Radio:** 1090-AM, 860-AM (Spanish)

### **Today's matchup**

#### **Padres RHP Ross Ohlendorf (1-0, 3.38 ERA)**

Ohlendorf, 29, is making his first start as a Padre. He will become the 12th starting pitcher deployed by the Padres this season – the most since a franchise record-tying 15 starters were used in 2009. The Padres lead the major leagues in starting pitchers used. Ohlendorf earned his win last Saturday in Milwaukee, allowing one run on five hits over 4 1/3 innings in relief of Andrew Cashner. The Padres signed Ohlendorf on June 4 after he had gone 4-03 with a 4.61 ERA for Boston's Triple-A affiliate. He is 0-0 lifetime against the A's with a 1.23 ERA in two games, one start.

#### **A's RHP Tyson Ross (2-6, 6.51 ERA)**

Ross, 25, is the older brother of Joe Ross, the Padres' first-round pick in the 2011 draft. Tyson Ross was drafted in the second round of the 2008 draft by the A's. He has made nine starts for the A's this season, although he will be coming back from Triple-A Sacramento for Saturday's start. He was 2-1 with a 2.45 ERA in four Triple-A starts. Opponents are hitting .342 against Ross. Both his ERA and opponents' batting average are the second-highest marks in the major leagues this season. He has never faced the Padres. The 6-foot-6, 230-pound Ross has a career record of 6-13 with a 5.08 ERA in 44 games (17 starts).

### **Looking Ahead**

#### **Sunday**

**Away:** 1:05 p.m. **TV:** FSSD

Padres LHP Clayton Richard (3-7, 4.30 ERA) at A's RHP Bartolo Colon (6-6, 4.21 ERA)

#### **Monday**

**Home:** 7:05 p.m. **TV:** FSSD

Rangers LHP Matr Harrison (8-3, 3.54 ERA) at Padres RHP Jason Marquis (1-1, 1.46 ERA)



**Tuesday**

**Home:** 7:05 p.m. **TV:** FSSD

Rangers RHP Scott Feldman (0-6, 6.50 ERA) at Padres RHP Edinson Volquez (3-6, 3.70 ERA).

## **Padres, A's dig deep for Saturday's pitching matchup**

By Chelsea Janes / MLB.com | 6/16/2012 3:25 AM ET

Princeton graduate Ross Ohlendorf knows a thing or two about the potential value of a good starting pitcher. The 29-year-old righty has a degree in Operations Research and Financial Engineering, and wrote a 126-page thesis on the investments made and returns reaped by Major League clubs with Draft picks from 1989-93. So Ohlendorf, who has been tabbed as the Padres starter for Saturday's game in Oakland, should understand just how valuable a strong start would be to his team and its injury-riddled pitching staff.

The Padres have certainly made their share of investments in starting pitchers this season -- 12, to be exact, including Ohlendorf on Saturday. They've had to, as four different starters have landed on the disabled list this year, including three projected as part of the San Diego starting rotation out of Spring Training (Tim Stauffer, Dustin Moseley and Cory Luebke). They've been forced to dip into their bullpen for the likes of Anthony Bass and Andrew Cashner, and into free agency, for the likes of Jason Marquis, whose stock is rising with just two earned runs yielded in 12 innings of work for the Padres.

Ohlendorf hopes to do the same in his first Major League start of 2012. He was 4-3 with a 4.61 ERA for Boston's Triple-A club prior to landing on the Padres roster June 4.

"He's got some experience," Padres manager Bud Black said. "He's been around the block and handled it well."

Starters are also in demand for the A's, who were left scrambling for someone to oppose Ohlendorf when Brandon McCarthy's shoulder injury flared up earlier this week. They settled on right-hander Tyson Ross from Triple-A Sacramento. This will be Ross' second stint in the big leagues this season. He was 2-6 with a 6.51 ERA before being sent down on May 31.

"I think it's well documented that he needs to use more than just one pitch," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "Needs to be a little less predictable."

### **A's: So it's not just Coors**

If the 10 runs they scored Friday night at home are any indication, the A's' offensive explosion this week was not just due to the friendly air at Coors Field. Coming into this week, the A's were among the Majors' worst offenses in both batting average and runs scored, but they have caught fire of late, to the tune of 36 runs in their past four games.

"There were days we swung the bat pretty well in Arizona too," Melvin said. "We're trying to feed off the momentum that we have offensively. A lot of the balls we hit, I feel like, in Colorado would've gone out in any ballpark. I thought we had good at-bats across the board, and again, we'd like to have a little carryover for that. We expect to."

### **Padres: Forsythe to miss a few**

Padres infielder Logan Forsythe returned from a lengthy stint on the disabled list two weeks ago but is sitting again for San Diego with a sore left abdomen. Forsythe, who was a late scratch from the series finale with the Mariners on Thursday night, did not play Friday.

"We will give it a couple of days," Forsythe said. "I think we caught it kind of early. We're being cautious about it."

Forsythe missed the first 54 games of the season with a broken foot but has been a consistent presence for the Padres since his return, hitting .290 in nine games with five RBIs. One of those came in the bottom of the ninth against division-rival San Francisco in the form of a walk-off home run, Forsythe's first Major League round-tripper.

A natural third baseman, Forsythe had settled at second base. He and shortstop Everth Cabrera, who is .315 (23 for 73) in his past 21 games, are quickly establishing themselves as an everyday part of the Padres lineup, which had been lacking a consistent double-play combination for the first two months of the season.

**Worth noting**

- With the win, the A's won four games in a row for the first time since last September. Both teams came into Friday night's opener with a chance to win four in a row after not doing so since 2011.
- Yoenis Cespedes was not in the lineup for the A's Friday, though Melvin said he would be available as a DH in this weekend's series. Cespedes aggravated his left hamstring injury Wednesday.

## **Padres unable to overcome early barrage Bass blitzed for five runs in bumpy first inning**

By Corey Brock / MLB.com | 6/16/2012 2:15 AM ET

OAKLAND -- It was just earlier this week when Padres pitching coach Darren Balsley was asked about the struggles of pitcher Anthony Bass, who after a promising start has slipped into a month-long funk where seemingly little has gone right for him.

There was nothing mechanical that Balsley could offer the 24-year-old, but more so words of wisdom.

"He needs to find a way to get through a crisis," Balsley said. "It's knowing you might give up one or two runs but you have to stay away from giving up four or five."

While that advice resonated with Bass, his execution of it fell short Friday, as the A's blitzed him and the rest of the Padres for five first-inning runs en route to a 10-2 victory before a crowd of 24,528 at Oakland Coliseum.

Bass, who is now 0-3 with no-decisions and an 8.89 ERA in his past five starts, began the game by walking the first two batters he faced -- Coco Crisp and Jemile Weeks.

"Out of the chute, he got full counts on the first two lefties and couldn't execute a 3-2 strike. ... That got him behind the eight ball," said Padres manager Bud Black. "Today, it came down to command of the fastball and his secondary pitches were a little erratic."

It all went downhill from there, as Bass then allowed a two-run triple to Josh Reddick and, three batters later, a two-run home run to Brandon Moss.

"I was trying to get ahead and I didn't," Bass said. "I couldn't get strike one that first inning and I fell behind."

All told, Bass (2-7) allowed seven earned runs on eight hits with three walks and three strikeouts in 5 1/3 innings. He's allowed 26 earned runs in his past 26 1/3 innings.

"It's not fun not doing well," Bass said. "When I have confidence I feel I can get anyone out. Right now, I feel like I've lost it [confidence]."

The Padres (23-42), coming off a series sweep of the Mariners in Seattle, looked like they might have a chance to stay with or close to the A's (30-35) in the early going.

The Padres got two hits and a walk in the first inning, including an RBI single by Carlos Quentin. Then in the second inning, Alexi Amarista tripled into the right-field corner and scored on Chris Denorfia's RBI single. Quentin later added a double, his first extra-base hit since June 5.

But that was essentially it offensively for the Padres, as A's pitcher Travis Blackley (1-2), retired 12 of the last 14 batters he faced in winning for the first time since 2004.

"That was awesome," Blackley said. "Any time you get some runs to play with, it makes it a little more relaxed out there."

Blackley, a left-hander, allowed two runs on five hits with two walks and three strikeouts in six innings.

"I still felt like we had some decent at-bats but the results weren't there," Denorfia said. "[Blackley] was effective in missing barrels and getting us out."

It wasn't a good night all-around for the Padres, who committed two errors and had just one hit after the second inning.

As for Bass, he's determined to turn around this rough patch.

"I'm going to find a way out of it," he said.

The Padres seem determined to allow him to do that. Black said he hasn't seen depreciation in the pure stuff that Bass offers. His velocity hasn't suffered, either.

"There's enough good things going on there," Black said. "He's pitched 100-plus innings [in his career]. That's not a lot. There's still a big learning curve there. There's some hard knocks along the way.

"But through all this, there's experience being gathered. In the long run, he'll be better off for it."

## **Padres agree to deal with top pick Fried**

By Corey Brock / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- The Padres came to terms with their first-round Draft choice, left-handed pitcher Max Fried, on Friday.

Fried, who was the No. 7 overall, selection, agreed to a deal worth \$3 million, the assigned value for that Draft pick.

To date, the Padres have now signed 31 of the 44 players they selected in the First-Year Player Draft. Teams have until July 13 to sign their picks.

Fried, who pitched for Harvard-Westlake High School in Studio City, Calif., will now report to the team's Spring Training facility in Peoria, Ariz. His innings will be limited, though.

"It's loose, athletic, 6-foot-4, a downhill delivery and good arm action," said Padres assistant general manager of player personnel Chad MacDonald of Fried. "It's the way it's supposed to look. We were tickled to death to get our lefty at seven."

Fried has a fastball that sits in the 90-91 mph range, though he can reach higher at times. He also has a very good curve, which is regarded by many as a plus pitch.

Other players who agreed to terms on Friday were catcher Dane Phillips (second-round), shortstop Jalen Goree (sixth-round), pitcher Ramon Madrid (seventh-round), infielder River Stevens (ninth-round), pitcher Drew Harrelson (12th-round), outfielder Ronnie Richardson (16th round) and pitcher Christopher Nunn (24th round).

Previously, the Padres announced that they signed 23 players from their draft class, including their third-round pick (infielder Fernando Perez) and fifth-round pick (outfielder Mallex Smith).

"Our area scouts deserve the credit," MacDonald said Friday. "They knew the players we drafted inside and out. The hard work our scouts put in to getting to know the player on and off the field help lead to quick signings."

### **Forsythe needs couple of days to rest**

OAKLAND -- Infielder Logan Forsythe will likely miss a few games with discomfort in his left abdomen, Padres manager Bud Black said Friday.

Forsythe, who was scratched from Thursday's 6-2 victory over the Mariners, said he suffered the injury at some point Tuesday in a game in Seattle.

"We will give it a couple of days," Forsythe said before Friday's game against the A's. "I think we caught it kind of early. We're being cautious about it."

Alexi Amarista got his second start in as many days at second base with Forsythe unavailable.

"I hope it's a quick turnaround for Logan," Black said. "We'll see. We're going to try and keep him out of a few games to see if he feels better."

The Padres are hoping this is a similar situation to the one that outfielder Will Venable went through earlier this month when he missed less than a week after suffering a tight right oblique.

Forsythe, who missed the first 54 games of the season after having a bone removed from his left foot in Spring Training, is hitting .290 in 31 at-bats with four extra-base hits and four RBIs in his first nine games since joining the team from Triple-A Tucson.

### **Padres rule in Interleague Play**

OAKLAND -- The Padres entered Friday's game against the A's with the second-worst record in baseball (23-41), leading only the Cubs (22-42) -- but they've played much better in Interleague Play.

Going into this three-game series, the Padres are 5-1 in Interleague Play after a three-game sweep of the Mariners and after taking two of three from the Angels last month at Petco Park. And going back to last season, the Padres are 11-3 in their past 14 Interleague games.

So what gives?

"I don't think it's the extra bat," said Padres manager Bud Black, refuting the assertion that having the designated hitter in Seattle gave the team a monumental lift.

- 75 wins
- 65 wins

"In those games, where we've won, we've scored more runs, pitched better and continued to play better defense."

After the series at Oakland, the Padres play host to the Rangers starting Monday followed by three games with the Mariners at Petco Park.

If the Padres can win three of their remaining nine Interleague games, they will clinch their third winning season of Interleague Play. The only other times the team finished above .500 against American League teams was in 1999 (11-4) and 2010 (9-6).

### **Short hops**

- Pitchers Joe Thatcher and Luke Gregerson as well as first-base coach Dave Roberts got up early on Friday -- following a late-night flight from Seattle -- to head to the Olympic Club in San Francisco to take in some of the U.S. Open, which began Thursday.

- In their past 15 games, the Padres are hitting .264 with 57 of their 136 hits in that stretch going for extra-base hits. The Padres are averaging 4.4 runs a game in that stretch with a .792 OPS. Interestingly enough, that 15-game stretch started when outfielder Carlos Quentin came off the disabled list after he missed the first 49 games of the season.

Murphy gets Emeralds off on right foot  
06/16/2012 2:52 AM ET  
By Jonathan Raymond / Special to MLB.com

Clark Murphy savored his big Opening Night for the Eugene Emeralds on Friday. But he knows there are more important things than winning a baseball game.

The Padres prospect went 4-for-5 with a pair of homers, a walk-off double and five RBIs as the Emeralds kicked off Northwest League play with a 6-5, 10-inning victory over the Yakima Bears.

Murphy homered in the first and sixth innings and singled in the fourth. He came up again in the 10th with two on and two outs, delivering a double that scored Ronnie Richardson with the winning run.

"I told myself to stay within myself and not try to do too much," Murphy said. "Two strikes, I got a pitch on the outside corner and went with it for a double. I used the whole field."

The 22-year-old first baseman began the season with Class A Fort Wayne, where he batted .164 with a homer and four RBIs in 17 games. It's the first year in the Padres organization for the San Diego-area native, who was drafted by Texas in 2008 and spent four seasons with the Rangers.

Murphy played in only 19 games last year between the Rookie-level Arizona League and Class A Hickory. In April 2011, his then-19-year-old brother, Conrad, was **severely injured** in a car accident, and he returned to California to be with his family.

Released by Texas in March, Murphy got a call from Padres Minor League field coordinator Randy Johnson, who attended Valley Center, the same high school as his brother. He worked out for the Padres in Lake Elsinore, Calif., signed a contract and was sent to extended spring training in Arizona.

"I'm extremely thankful for the Padres organization and the way they treated me," Murphy said. "I live an hour from San Diego, I still live in San Diego County. It's a dream to be playing for your hometown team."

In 2010, his last extended time on the diamond, Murphy hit .319 with a .440 on-base percentage and .410 slugging percentage in 46 games with short-season Spokane. He's back in the Northwest League after making the jump from Fallbrook High School to the pros.

More importantly, his brother continues to show signs of improvement as he recovers from a brain injury.

"He still has a long road ahead, but he works harder than anyone I know," Murphy said. "He's an inspiration, as far as not giving up when the odds are against you."

"I see glimpses of his old self more and more, and it's great to see that. He's a warrior. He's the toughest [guy] I know."

Knowing what Conrad has been through -- and what he continues to go through -- helps put nights like Friday in perspective.

"It's baseball," Murphy said. "You have your ups and downs, and it's great that this was a good night for me and the hard work is paying off. I'm very thankful to be in the position I'm in."



## **PADRES: Top pick Fried agrees to terms**

15 hours ago • By [JOHN MAFFEI jmaffei@nctimes.com](mailto:jmaffei@nctimes.com)

Just after the baseball draft finished, Chad MacDonald, the Padres' director of player personnel, promised the team would sign its picks quickly, especially the top 10.

Friday, the Padres made good on his promise as the club announced a contract agreement with No. 1 pick Max Fried.

A left-handed pitcher from Harvard-Westlake High, Fried was ranked as the No. 1 lefty in the draft by Baseball America.

"The rules have definitely changed how signings work," said Padres general manager Josh Byrnes of a process that used to take until mid-August.

Fried finished his prep season 8-2 with a 2.02 ERA. In 66 innings, he had 105 strikeouts with just 29 walks. And he allowed just 43 hits.

Fried is believed to have signed for the \$3 million slotted for the seventh pick in the draft under the new rules.

"He pitched in the winter and spring, so we'll limit his innings this summer," Byrnes said. "We're going to be very careful with him.

"I won't know exactly how many innings we'll use him this first year until I talk with our minor-league people and instructors. But it will be low.

"He has had a long season. He was ramping it up since December, pitching for all the scouts. We scouted him a lot. We know what he can do, but we want him to get to Arizona, meet our instructors, meet the other players, get to know the layout there.

"So when he gets to spring training there will be a comfort level."

The Padres have now signed 31 of their 44 draft picks, including second-round selection Dane Phillips, a catcher from Oklahoma City.

All three of the organization's local picks ---- infielder River Stevens from Mission Hills High by way of Allan Hancock College, outfielder Wynton Bernard, an outfielder from Rancho Bernardo High and Niagara University, and outfielder Anthony Renteria from Cal State San Marcos ---- have signed.

Still unsigned are right-hander Zach Eflin, the 33rd pick in the draft, outfielder Travis Jankowski from Stony Brook, the 44th player taken, right-hander Walker Weickel from Olympia High in Florida, the 55th player taken, and outfielder Jeremy Balyz from St. John's ----- the 68th pick.

Jankowski and infielder Maxx Tissenbaum, an 11th-round pick, play for Stony Brook, a team that is playing in the College World Series and aren't eligible to sign until the team is eliminated. Baltz played for St. John's a team that was eliminated from the NCAA Super Regional last week.

## **PADRES: Bass falters as winning streak comes to an end**

10 hours ago • [Associated Press](#)

OAKLAND — Anthony Bass once again showed signs he is the same pitcher who started the season with such promise. He also showed he is still a work in progress.

Bass failed to get through the sixth inning for a fifth straight start as the Padres fell to the Oakland Athletics 10-2 on Friday night, snapping the team's season-high three-game winning streak.

"It's not fun," Bass said. "But I'm going to find a way out of it. It's tough when you're not going well."

Bass (2-7) has seen his ERA jump nearly two full runs over that span.

After allowing five of the first six hitters he faced to score, Bass set down nine of the next 10 hitters before the A's struck again in the fourth with two runs — one earned.

"If you break it down with just his performance there are enough good things to keep him going," Padres manager Bud Black said. "At times he is major league quality and at other times there are things he needs to clean up."

Bass had an ERA of 2.89 following his last quality start, a no-decision, on May 20 against the Los Angeles Angels. He's given up 26 earned runs in 54 1-3 innings since, leaving Friday night's game with a 4.88 ERA.

"Confidence," Bass said. "When I have it I feel like I can get anyone out. Right now I feel like I've lost it."

He has also suffered some tough road starts lately, giving up 22 earned runs in his last four starts after allowing six in his first three.

Bass, who made his major league debut just over a year ago, has an 1.89 ERA in 24 appearances as a reliever. He was forced into the starting rotation because of injuries that thinned the Padres' staff.

"He's a tough kid," Black said. "He has good stuff. Through all of this there is experience being gathered. In the long run he will be better for it. His stuff is all there, it's a matter of putting pitches together."

Chris Denorfia extended his season-high hitting streak to eight games with an RBI single in the second.

Brandon Moss' two-run home run capped a five-run first inning and marked the sixth time in nine games that the A's first baseman has homered since being called up from the minors.

Josh Reddick and Cliff Pennington had two RBIs each for Oakland. The second-lowest scoring team in the American League going into the game, the A's have scored 36 runs in their last four games.

Travis Blackley (1-2) pitched six strong innings for his first win since July 1, 2004, when he made his major league debut with Seattle.

Carlos Quentin had two hits and an RBI for San Diego, which lost for just the second time in seven interleague games this season.

The Padres cut it to 5-2 when Alexi Amarista tripled and scored on Denorfia's single in the second.

Bass, who has not won since going eight innings to beat Washington on May 15, struck out three and was charged with nine runs, seven earned.

Bass walked the first two batters he faced then surrendered a two-out double to Reddick, three batters before Moss homered. He gave up two runs in the fourth then left after giving up consecutive one-out singles in the sixth.

Brad Boxberger replaced Bass but made a critical throwing error to center field after appearing to have easily caught Cowgill trying to steal second. Kurt Suzuki scored on the play and Cowgill later scored on Pennington's single.