



# Padres Press Clips

Sunday, June 17, 2012

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## **Padres can't catch break after hits slow to come Quentin homers again, but Alonso's unlucky liner kills rally**

By Corey Brock / MLB.com | 6/16/2012 9:25 PM ET

OAKLAND -- The best swing that Yonder Alonso put on a ball Saturday wasn't the one that resulted in an opposite-field double in the seventh inning, an extra-base hit that helped to set up a big inning on a day where hits proved slow to come.

No, the best swing from the Padres first baseman came one inning later and after the A's had rallied for a 6-4 lead that would eventually stand up before a crowd of 17,135, many of whom probably thought a would-be no-hitter might end up in a loss.

With one out and Carlos Quentin on third base after Mark Kotsay singled, the left-handed hitting Alonso laid into a Grant Balfour curveball, staying back to put some serious thunder behind it. He got all of it, too, though it didn't find the outfield grass or the cheap seats in right field.

Instead, it stuck right in the middle of first baseman Brandon Moss' glove, though the force from the ball actually caused Moss to roll backwards. He quickly gathered himself and then stepped on the bag for an inning-ending double play.

"It happened so fast ... it was almost like the ball caught *him*," said Padres first base coach Dave Roberts, who was standing a few feet away.

Alonso, who said the play was over by the time the follow-through of his swing was done, stood in the batter's box in disbelief.

"That put him [Moss] on the floor," Alonso said.

That was one of what probably felt like a handful of knockout blows for the Padres (23-43), who had no hits to show for most of the day against A's pitcher Tyson Ross, who used a big slider as well as a sneaky fastball to tie the Padres' hitters in knots.

Ross, the older brother of the Padres' 2011 first-round Draft pick, pitcher Joe Ross, got the first two outs of the sixth inning before walking Chase Headley, one of four walks Ross would issue. Quentin then ended the no-hit bid and shutout with one swing, sending a slider directly into the wind to clear the left-field fence as the Padres cut the lead to 3-2.

"Carlos, again, came up big for us," Padres manager Bud Black said of Quentin, who has six home runs in 15 games. "That's what he does."

For not having a hit for so long, the Padres actually took a 4-3 lead in that seventh inning, when, after a double by Alonso, Will Venable lined a two-out, two-run double over the head of A's right fielder Collin Cowgill. That the left-handed Venable did so against lefty reliever Sean Doolittle was notable to Black.

"That gave us some momentum," Black said. "Will squared it up."

Only the lead didn't last long, as the A's (31-35) scored three runs in the bottom of the seventh as Black went through three relievers -- Alex Hinshaw, Joe Thatcher (0-2) and finally Luke Gregerson, who threw

a wild pitch that allowed the tying run to score before yielding a two-run, pinch-hit home run to Jonny Gomes that put the A's on top for good.

"It's a sign of a team that's pretty confident in what they're doing," said A's manager Bob Melvin of a team that has won its past five games. "The way we've been swinging the bats, I don't think anybody thought it was over once we got down."

The A's weren't down long on Saturday, after they bolted to a 3-0 lead in the fifth inning against San Diego pitcher Ross Ohlendorf, the 12th starter the Padres have used in their first 66 games.

Ohlendorf didn't allow a hit until the fourth inning when he surrendered a home run to Seth Smith and later an RBI single with two outs to Cowgill. Ohlendorf allowed the three runs on five hits over 4 2/3 innings with two walks and three strikeouts.

"I think later in the game, I was missing more in the middle of the plate," Ohlendorf said.

As for Ross, he was rolling right along even though he walked three over the first five innings before issuing the walk to Headley in the sixth that set up Quentin's home run.

"We saw a lot of fastballs early but as the game progressed, he got underneath us with a lot of sliders," Black said. "He's a tall guy [6-foot-6] with good depth to his slider. You saw our guys swing over top of it."

Yet for all of that, the Padres still had a chance to win. They were nine outs away, nine long outs away from doing so, but the bullpen faltered in the seventh. Then, in the eighth inning, with two runners on, Alonso saw his best swing of the day result in misery instead of merriment.

"We're coming back. It's first and third and I was just trying to hit the ball hard," Alonso said after the game. "The next thing I know, it's a double play. But it seems like that's how it's been for us."

## Dad remains constant in Hundley's journey

By Chelsea Janes / MLB.com

SAN DIEGO -- University of Nevada-Las Vegas linebackers coach Tim Hundley has done many a solid coaching job in his 38-year career. A member of the NAIA Hall of Fame for his playing career at Western Oregon State, Hundley has been a member of Division I football coaching staffs at nine different FBS schools. He has nurtured 21 future NFL stars and recruited six future All-Americans. But his best coaching job may have taken place off the gridiron.

The project? His son, Nick, who is in the midst of his fifth season as a Padres catcher, a position he says would never have reached without the dedicated coaching of his father.

Nick was born in 1983 in Corvallis, Ore., during Tim's stint with Oregon State. In the years that followed, he, his brother Jake, and their mother, Pam, bounced from coaching stop to coaching stop as Tim worked his way up the ranks. From Oregon State, the elder Hundley headed to UCLA, then the University of Colorado. Tim then settled in at the University of Washington.

Nick ultimately settled in, too, as a standout on the Lake Washington High School baseball team in Redmond, Wash. Though it was his performance during those high school years that earned him a baseball scholarship to the University of Arizona, Hundley says the hectic years before Lake Washington taught him just as much as time on the high school diamond did.

in different situations, that kind of prepared me for [Major League] life," Hundley said. "Moving around, playing in different cities. It was huge."

But for all the new places, faces and teams, Nick knew he had one constant: his coach. Nick dabbled in high school football, though his career never moved past that point. Even so, Hundley credits his father as a major influence on his baseball development. As busy as Tim was with the high-intensity life of a Division I coach, he always had time to ditch the pigskin for the rawhide and trade one coaching job for another.

"He was working a lot, but when he wasn't working, he was with us," Hundley said. "It didn't matter if he was tired, he was always there for us. That was the biggest thing for me and my brother growing up -- knowing he was always there."

"Being there" often meant throwing hours of batting practice to Nick, even after he established himself as a star at Arizona. As his father moved from Washington to the University of Texas-El Paso, Nick made moves of his own, earning a finalist nod for the 2005 Johnny Bench Award as the nation's best collegiate catcher before heading to the Minors.

But whenever he had a break, Nick would go home to his coach, wherever that home was.

Each coaching location posed its own challenge to the tandem, who christened each new hometown by finding the best local spot to take batting practice. It wasn't always easy.

"When I used to come home for Thanksgiving and stuff, we'd always go hit," Hundley said. "In Seattle, it'd always rain, so we'd drive a half hour down to Newport High School, the only cages that were covered. He'd sneak away from football when he could and we'd go hit for an hour or so. It was great."

And while Tim's coaching resume may have made him more qualified to teach Nick to hit a running back than a curveball, his dedication was an example of one of the many lessons the veteran teacher was able to pass down to his son.

"There are definitely things he's brought from his coaching that he's taught me," Hundley said. "How to persevere when it's not going good, how to fight through the tough times, how to enjoy the good times. We still talk, I talk to him every day."

Tim joined the UNLV coaching staff in March, and with Petco Park just five hours from their new home, he and Pam have been able to make their way to several Padres games this season. But just as Tim logged hours and miles to help Nick realize his dreams, Nick knows that it is just as important to share in them.

"He'll drive 10 hours just to see one game," Hundley said. "I just try to play as long as I can so he can see more games. I know my parents love coming out. It's such a privilege to be able to share this with them."

## **Padres use 12th starting pitcher of season**

By Corey Brock / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Ross Ohlendorf became the 12th starting pitcher the Padres have used this season when he got the start Saturday against the A's.

Injuries and ineffectiveness caused the Padres to dip into reserve and even go outside the organization to find capable relievers to make starts.

Take Ohlendorf, who opted out of his Minor League deal with the Red Sox on June 1 to sign a big league deal with the Padres. That's not all.

The Padres have also used four other pitchers who weren't on the 40-man roster at the beginning of the season -- Joe Wieland, Jeff Suppan, Eric Stults and Jason Marquis.

In case you're wondering, the Padres used eight starting pitchers in 2010 and 2011. However, in 2009, the team used 15 starting pitchers.

The breakdown of starting pitchers this season and the number of starts they've made: Edinson Volquez (14), Anthony Bass (13), Clayton Richard (13), Suppan (6), Cory Luebke (5), Wieland (5), Stults (4), Marquis (2), Andrew Cashner (1), Dustin Moseley (1) and Tim Stauffer (1).

### **Adding Quentin has boosted rest of lineup**

OAKLAND -- There's no denying that Carlos Quentin has had a big impact on the Padres' offense since joining the team on May 28.

Before that, the Padres were averaging 3.08 runs per game with a slash line of .220/.298/.459. But since then -- and 16 games still qualifies as a small sample size -- the team is averaging 4.25 runs a game with a slash line of .258/.328/.444.

And while Quentin has been a boon for the offense, it's not just him. Manager Bud Black and those who pitch with Quentin agree that the lineup functions much better with him in it.

"Without a doubt," said Padres third baseman Chase Headley, who not so coincidentally had a 10-game hitting streak after Quentin returned. "I think that he gives everyone a little better chance to succeed. It's nice to have that big bat in the middle of the lineup."

Since Quentin returned, Headley has a .333/.435/.508 slash line.

"In just in the small time I've hit in front of him, I can tell I have been pitched a little different than I was before. It's nice to have him in there. I think it sets the rest of the lineup a little better to where it should be," Headley said.

This point hasn't been lost on Black.

"When you're pitching and you know a certain guy [Quentin] is on deck, the guys in front of him should get more strikes," Black said. "And you don't want Carlos coming up with guys on base."

Since missing the first 49 games after having knee surgery in March, Quentin is hitting .413 and has 10 extra-base hits with a .526 on-base percentage.

"Carlos was a guy that we were excited to get, a guy we planned on being in the middle of the lineup the majority of the time," Headley said. "I think this is more what they envisioned than before [the knee injury in March]. Hopefully he can keep it going."

### **Owings scratched from Triple-A outing**

OAKLAND -- Pitcher Micah Owings, on a Minor League rehabilitation assignment with Triple-A Tucson, had a setback on Friday.

Owings, on the disabled list since April 26 with a strained right forearm, said that he felt soreness in his forearm while warming up to pitch in a game for Tucson.

"He was scratched from that outing," Padres manager Bud Black said.

The game Friday was to be Owings' first appearance in a game of any kind since April 25, the day before he landed on the 15-day disabled list. He was later transferred to the 60-day DL.

Owings was 0-2 with a 2.79 ERA in 9 2/3 innings for the Padres before he was hurt.

Earlier this month, Black said Owings would play some first base during his rehabilitation assignment. Before Friday, he had played one game at first base, gotten one start as the designated hitter and pinch-hit several times. He's 3-for-8 with a double.

### **Short hop**

Infielder Logan Forsythe (sore left abdomen) said Saturday that he was feeling better. Forsythe was a late scratch Thursday in Seattle and didn't play Friday against the A's. The Padres likely will give him a few more days of rest but it doesn't appear he'll need time on the disabled list.

"He feels better," said Padres manager Bud Black. "That's a quote from him."

## Padres' 'pen can't hold lead vs. A's

By [Bill Center](#)

Originally published June 16, 2012 at 4:21 p.m., updated June 16, 2012 at 9:15 p.m.

OAKLAND — The Padres experienced several emotions Saturday afternoon in the over-heated Oakland Coliseum.

First, there was the embarrassment of being no-hit for 5 2/3 innings by a pitcher who entered the game with the second-worst opponents' batting average mark in the major leagues.

There followed the excitement of rallying from a three-run deficit to take the lead on a pair of clutch, two-out hits.

Next came the realization of another loss, as the bullpen gave three runs in a seventh-inning capped by Jonny Gomes' decisive two-run homer off Padres reliever Luke Gregerson.

But beneath the surface, the biggest emotion was one of frustration.

With runners at first and third and one out in the top of the eighth, the Padres thought they had tied the score as a line drive rocketed off the bat of Yonder Alonso. But A's first baseman Brandon Moss not only caught the ball, he doubled Mark Kotsay off first for an inning-ending double play.

Catch the ball?

That might be an over simplification. Alonso drilled the ball into Moss's glove, the force of the drive knocking the first baseman backwards.

"I didn't see him catch the ball," said Alonso. "I was still in my swing when he caught the ball. I turned thinking the ball was headed for the corner and he had it. I put him on the floor, but he held onto it. Unbelievable. We've been hitting balls right at people."

A half inning earlier, pinch-hitter Gomes hit a two-run, two-out pinch-hit homer off Gregerson to give the A's a 6-4 lead -- and a second straight interleague victory over the Padres.

Gregerson entered the game with runners at first and third and two out in the seventh with the Padres holding a 4-3 lead.

A's shortstop Cliff Pennington scored to tie the game when Gregerson bounced a breaking ball off catcher John Baker for a wild pitch.

Gomes followed with his third career pinch-hit homer – a massive shot into the left field stands. Going into the at-bat, Gomes was hitless in 34 straight pinch-hitting opportunities.

Earlier, the Padres were hitless against A's right-hander Tyson Ross through 5 2/3 innings when Carlos Quentin started the visitors' rally from a 3-0 deficit with his sixth homer in 48 at-bats as a Padre.

Quentin's homer, the Padres' first hit of the game, followed a walk drawn by Chase Headley.



Going into the game, hitters were batting .342 against Ross and left-handed hitters were hitting .427 against the older brother of Padres first-round 2011 draft pick Joe Ross.

But the Padres were 0-for-16 against Ross before Quentin connected. And left-handed hitters in the Padres lineup were 0-for-13.

For 3 1/3 innings, Padres starter Ross Ohlendorf also hadn't allowed a hit. But that changed abruptly when Seth Smith homered with one out in the fourth – opening a 5-for-7 assault against Ohlendorf that resulted in the 3-0 Oakland lead.

But the Padres battled back on Quentin's two-run homer in the sixth followed an inning later by a two-run double by the left-handed hitting Will Venable against left-handed A's reliever Sean Doolittle. Venable had been hitting .194 against left-handed pitchers this season and only .209 for his career.

The A's got to three Padres relievers in the seventh, however.

Their rally opened with Alex Hinshaw walking Pennington. Left-hander Joe Thatcher got two outs around a single by Jemile Weeks. But when Gomes stepped into the right batter's box, Padres manager Bud Black summoned Gregerson.

First came a slider for the game-tying wild pitch, followed by the Gomes homer on a fastball.

Still, a win Sunday in the finale of a nine-game road trip would give the Padres a winning record on the trip and a 4-2 advantage in the road portion of their interleague schedule.

## **Frieri the Fireman starring for Angels**

By [Chris Jenkins](#)

Friday, June 15, 2012

Indeed, even among those who believed in Ernesto Frieri, there is disbelief.

Jerry DiPoto, the general manager who had enough confidence in Frieri to swing the May 4 trade with the Padres that immediately reversed the dumbfoundingly downward direction of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, admits that the right-handed reliever has exceeded all expectations since his transfer up I-5. Angels manager Mike Scioscia, who'd been so desperate for a closer to stop the bleeding in Anaheim, keeps throwing Frieri back out into the fire and wondering if he'll ever get burned.

"If you look statistically, it's off the charts," said Scioscia. "I don't know if anybody can keep up that pace."

Later that same night, though, Frieri did just that. He did it his way, too. Which is to say, he drove everybody nuts. Himself included.

Ill-timed walks and hit batsmen were Frieri's bugaboo with the Padres, an organization for which he served 10 seasons, making him San Diego's longest-tenured performer on Opening Day. Wednesday, entering for the ninth inning of the finale of a three-game, interleague, cross-border series at Dodger Stadium, Frieri naturally put the tying run on base with his walk of A.J. Ellis.

A single by James Loney moved Ellis to third with no outs, but a grounder got him thrown out at the plate. Frieri stuck out former Padres teammate Tony Gwynn Jr. and personally fielded Bobby Abreu's comebacker, clearly relishing the finality of the play, taking his time before underhanding a flip to first.

Two-one, Halos, who are looking again like the World Series contender they were supposed to be with the quarter-billion bucks lavished on Albert Pujols and C.J. Wilson. Sunken to 10-17 at the time of the trade, the Angels have resurfaced to the AL West race with a 34-31 mark (entering Saturday's game) since getting Frieri from San Diego for utility player Alexi Amarista and right-hander Donn Roach, perhaps the premier pitching prospect in Class A ball.

"You talk about our turnaround," said Scioscia. "Obviously, (rookie sensation) Mike Trout has been a big part of the equation, but equally as big has been our ability to hold leads. Ernie's big been a big part of that."

"Ernie" is Frieri, anglicized and Angel-ized.

Usually a sixth-inning guy with the Padres, a scatter-shooter who always made things interesting on the bridge to the backside of the bullpen, Frieri has recorded six saves while appearing in 19 games for the "other" L.A. The Angels are 18-1 in those games. And that's not even the most impressive number here.

On second thought, zero isn't a number. Zero-point-zero-zero, however, is Frieri's earned-run average in those 19 games. Thirteen times, he's recorded two strikeouts in an inning, fanning the side in a half-dozen of those.

“I’ve surprised myself,” said Frieri. “I’m doing the same thing I was doing with the Padres. Maybe I’m pitching with a little more confidence here because of the (late) situation in the game. I’m using my fastball, attacking the strike zone, letting the hitter swing the bat and being successful. With the Padres, I was doing that too.”

Mostly through no fault of his own, the Padres were 4-7 in Frieri’s appearances. His ERA at the time of the trade was a very respectable 2.31, and true to Frieri’s rather unorthodox form, it included a ton of strikeouts and a lot of walks.

Batters don’t dig in on him because, for one thing, Frieri’s delivery makes it especially difficult to locate the ball coming out of his hand. More to the point, while Frieri misses bats with his fastball, he also hits batters with it. It’s becoming an effective form of wildness, belying the fact that Frieri’s just about the friendliest fellow in the game.

“My biggest problem is getting to two strikes,” said Frieri. “Whenever I get to two strikes, I get in trouble, walking people and hitting people. When I get 0-2, 1-2, 2-2, I overthrow. Because they know that my fastball is coming, and I want to throw it faster.”

Joining an Angels bullpen that went 0-6 with six blown saves in April, Frieri quickly came to an understanding with his new club.

“I know I walk too many hitters,” he said. “When I walk somebody here, they say, ‘Don’t worry. You keep striking out people like that, you can walk as many people as you want.’ They put that kind of confidence in me.”

Asked if he felt the Padres had the same kind of confidence in him, Frieri immediately and repeatedly expresses his own loyalty to them, saying there always were “so many good pitchers in San Diego” to handle the seventh, eighth and ninth innings. Quite emotionally, he talks about what he learned from being around Trevor Hoffman and Heath Bell, reciting how the latter told him to “pitch every inning like it’s the ninth.”

Getting to actually throw in the ninth wasn’t going to happen for Frieri in San Diego, at least not in the imminent future. So imagine the churning inside Frieri as he took the mound at Petco Park in the *bottom* of the ninth on May 18, maintaining the Angels’ 7-2 lead for the win. Nor was there a save opportunity when Frieri pitched a scoreless ninth inning of a tie against the Padres two days later, a game that went 13 innings and remains the Angels’ only loss that involved Frieri, though he didn’t give up a run in that one either.

“You don’t even know how bad I felt pitching down there,” said Frieri. “It was hard. It felt like spring training where you pitch to your own teammates. That’s how I felt, but it was for real. Pitching to guys I hang out with, my good friends. Whenever I strike out somebody, I really enjoy it. When I struck out two or three batters down there, I didn’t enjoy it at all.”

## Quentin getting hit almost as often as he homers

By [Bill Center](#)

Saturday, June 16, 2012

OAKLAND — Carlos Quentin is clearly the Padres biggest threat.

Quentin's two-run homer in Oakland Saturday afternoon gave him six in 48 at-bats as a Padre. He also has 13 RBI and 11 extra-base hits in 14 starts.

Since joining the Padres in Chicago on May 28, Quentin has hit .417 with a .541 on-base percentage and a .896 slugging percentage.

But are pitchers beginning to exact revenge on Quentin. Saturday also marked the fifth time as a Padre — the fifth time over his last 10 starts to be exact — that Quentin has been hit by a pitch.

Is Quentin concerned with the trend? Does he think he has become targeted?

“Not yet,” he said after the Padres 6-4 loss in Oakland. “I haven't seen that yet this season. I've been hit with a lot of inside breaking pitches so far.”

Quentin has always ranked among the major league leaders in being hit by pitches. He was hit 24 times last season in 483 plate appearances — or once every 20.1 plate appearances. He has been hit by 102 pitches in his career — at a rate of once every 24.4 plate appearances.

But the rate this year is one HBP every 12.2 plate appearances.

“A lot of it has to do with the way I try to get away from pitches,” said Quentin. “My first priority is to protect my hands. I don't move my body quite as quick. I expect to get hit because of that.”

“There is no question how important Carlos is to our offense,” Padres manager Bud Black said recently. “He's a force by himself. And he makes everyone around him better.”

### Trading zeroes

Like Tyson Ross, Padres starter Ross Ohlendorf got off to a strong start Saturday.

The A's didn't have a hit until Seth Smith hit a solo homer with one out in the fourth. However, starting with Smith's homer, the A's went 5-for-8 with a sacrifice bunt until Ohlendorf came out down 3-0 with two out in the fifth.

“I thought Ohlendorf's first 50 pitches were great,” said Black. “He kept the ball low and made effective use of his fastball and slider. But the ball started creeping up later in his outing to where the A's took advantage of it. But I saw more good than bad.”

“My command was really good early,” said Ohlendorf. “The last two innings were not as good. Not only did the pitches come up, they moved toward the middle.”

Ohlendorf is the 12th starting pitcher employed by the Padres in the season's first 66 games. The franchise record for starting pitchers used over the course of an entire season is 15.

He allowed three runs on five hits in 4 2/3 innings. He issued two walks and had three strikeouts.

### **Forsythe improves**

Second baseman Logan Forsythe went through a series of baseball drills Saturday morning at what Black said was "between 70 and 80 percent."

But the strain in his right side isn't allowing him to play yet. If Forsythe were playable, Jesus Guzman would not have gone into Saturday's game at second base after pinch-hitting for Alexi Amarista.

"Hopefully, if he continues to feel good, we can ramp him up," Black said of Forsythe. "He tells me he's fine."

"Much improved," said Forsythe of the injury that has kept him out of four games.

### **Black understands**

Black said he was not disappointed to hear starting pitcher Anthony Bass say he has "lost his confidence" after Friday night's loss to the A's.

"He was being honest," said Black. "It happens to most players at some point of their career. One of the functions of being a successful athlete is believing in themselves. But it's not easy when things aren't going well.

"I understand. I'd rather have a player answer that question honestly rather than say 'everything's great.'"

### **Minor notes**

Infielder Andy Parrino (right wrist) began his rehab assignment with Triple-A Tucson Friday night, going 1-for-3 with an error at short.

Right-handed pitcher Micah Owings was to have made his debut as a pitcher Friday. But he felt some pain in his forearm as he started to prepare and was pushed back. Owings has been out since April 26 with a right forearm strain.

## **On-Deck Sunday: Padres seek to get win in Oakland**

By [Bill Center](#)

Saturday, June 16, 2012

**OAKLAND — PADRES (23-42) at A's (30-35)**

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

**TV:** Fox Sports San Diego

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

### **Today's matchup**

#### **Padres LHP Clayton Richard (3-7, 4.30 ERA)**

Richard, 28, is 2-2 with a 3.18 ERA over his last six starts. He is coming off the second-best start of his season. He held the Mariners to one run on eight hits over seven innings last Tuesday in Seattle to get the win. Before that, Richard had gone 1-7 in his previous 10 starts. The Padres are 4-9 in Richard's 13 starts. The win in Seattle was his first road win of the season. He is 1-4 on the road with a 5.73 ERA in seven starts. Left-handed hitters are batting .207 against Richard with one homer. Right-handed hitters are batting .289 with nine homers. He is 0-1 with a 7.11 ERA in two games (one start) against Oakland in his career. He is 0-0 with a 0.00 in one game at Oakland Coliseum.

#### **A's RHP Bartolo Colon (6-6, 4.21 ERA)**

Colon, 39, is a native of the Dominican Republic. He is in his 17th major league season and his second with the A's. Colon has a career record of 167-119 with a 4.09 ERA in 371 games (365 starts). The 5-foot-11, 265-pound Colon is 1-1 lifetime against the Padres with a 1.13 ERA in two games. Colon is 6-5 with a 4.13 ERA in 12 games (11 starts) with the A's at Oakland Coliseum. He is 2-4 with a 5.80 ERA in six home starts this season. He is 3-4 with a 5.80 ERA and a .347 opponents' batting average in his last eight starts. Colon is 18-12 lifetime in 38 interleague starts with a 4.04 ERA. He is 2-0 in two interleague starts this season despite a 6.30 ERA.

### **Looking Ahead**

#### **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).

**Wednesday**

**Home: 3:35 p.m. TV: FSSD**

Rangers RHP Yu Darvish (8-4, 3.57 ERA) at Padres RHP Anthony Bass (2-7, 4.88 ERA)

## Daily Update: Venable, Denorfia enjoy hitting on the road

By [Bill Center](#)

Sunday, June 17, 2012

OAKLAND — Padres right fielders Will Venable and Chris Denorfia might not be happy to see the Padres return to Petco Park Monday to open a three-game series against the Rangers.

Venable, who put the Padres briefly ahead Saturday afternoon with a two-run double off A's left-hander Sean Doolittle, is hitting .327 on the road this season (33-for-101) compared to .202 (18-for-89) at home.

And Denorfia, who is 12-for-40 in an active eight-game hitting streak, is hitting .338 (25-for-74) on the road compared to .222 (16-for-72) at home.

### The Daily Five (Notes, Stats and Numbers)

--The nine runs (seven earned) allowed by Anthony Bass Friday night were the highest totals allowed by the right-hander in his career. His previous high in each category was six earlier this season against Miami (May 4) and the New York Mets (May 25).

--RHP Luke Gregerson has given up four homers over his last 14 appearances (12 1/3 innings). He gave up only two homers over 55 2/3 innings last season and had allowed only 13 homers in the first 229 appearances of his career, including none in his first 16 appearances this season.

--OF Mark Kotsay is a .367 (10-for-26) career hitter against the A's. He has hit safely in eight straight games against Oakland, where he played from 2004-2007 after completing his first tour with the Padres.

--1B Yonder Alonso was 1-for-4 Saturday and robbed of an extra-base hit after having his five-game hitting streak (7-for-20) snapped Friday night. Alonso got his 17th double of the season Saturday, although it was his first since May 24.

--One of the raps against Everth Cabrera was the shortstop's reluctance to take a walk during his previous tours with the Padres (66 total in 688 plate appearances). After drawing only one walk in his first 12 games with the Padres this season, Cabrera has drawn 11 walks in his last 14 games.



## Minors Report: CFs Fuentes, Noel, Robertson pace farm teams

By [Bill Center](#)

Sunday, June 17, 2012

Center fielder Reymond Fuentes was 3-for-4 with a double, a walk, two stolen bases and two runs scored as Double-A San Antonio scored a 5-2, Texas League win at Midland.

Texas League All-Star game representatives Nate Freiman, Dean Anna and Ali Solis each had two hits.

Third baseman Anna drove in a run and had a stolen base. First baseman Freiman drove in a run. Solis had a double.

Shortstop Jeudy Valdez was 2-for-5 with a homer and a steal.

Right-handed starter Josh Geer (2-2, 5.77 ERA) picked up the win, allowing two runs on four hits and a walk over seven innings. Geer struck out five. Right-hander Jeremy McBryde (3.13 ERA) picked up his fifth save, striking out two in a perfect ninth.

The Missions are 26-41.

### Around The Farm

**Triple-A Tucson (21-48):** Reno 9, TUCSON 4 – The T-Padres lost a 10th straight game. 2B Jedd Gyorko (.344) was 2-for-5 with two RBI. CF Dan Robertson (.339) was 2-for-4 with a double. And rehabbing Padres INF Andy Parrino was 3-for-4 with two runs scored while playing short. Starting RHP Matt Palmer (4-4, 5.70 ERA) allowed four runs on eight hits and two walks with five strikeouts in five innings. LHP Josh Spence (4.24 ERA) gave up three runs on four hits while striking out two in an inning. RHP Cory Burns (3.79 ERA) had a strikeout in a perfect inning.

**Single-A Lake Elsinore (36-34):** BAKERSFIELD 7, Lake Elsinore 6 – 3B Justin Miller (.396) again moved toward .400, going 4-for-4 with a double and his third homer since his promotion from Fort Wayne. RF Rymer Liriano also homered for the Storm. CF Rico Noel was 2-for-5 with two stolen bases (46 on the season), two runs scored and a RBI. The Storm also committed three errors leading to four unearned runs. Starting LHP Jerry Sullivan (6.28 ERA) allowed three unearned runs on three hits in two innings. He struck out three. RHP Chris Wilkes (0-2, 10.73 ERA) took the loss, allowing two runs on two hits in 1/3-inning. RHP Kevin Quackenbush (0.91 ERA) allowed a hit and two walks in a scoreless inning.

**Single-A Fort Wayne (31-38):** -- BOWLING GREEN 4, Fort Wayne 0 – The TinCaps had three hits as they were shut out for a second straight game. Starting RHP Ruben Mejia (1-2, 4.35 ERA) allowed two runs (one earned) on seven hits and two walks with three strikeouts in five innings. RHP Dennis O'Grady (6.94 ERA) allowed a run on three hits and two walks with three strikeouts in three innings.

**Single-A Eugene (2-0):** EUGENE 5, Yakima 2 – CF Ronnie Richardson, the Padres 16th-round pick earlier this month, was 3-for-3 with two walks and two runs scored. OF Alexi Colon homered. 1B Clark Murphy was 1-for-2 with a double, a RBI and two walks. Starting RHP Will Scott picked up the win, allowing two runs on two hits over five innings. He walked one and struck out three. RHP Ryan Kelly

struck out two in a perfect inning to get his first save. RHP Juan Mercano allowed a hit and had a strikeout in two scoreless innings.

## Ten questions with Logan Forsythe

By [Sharon Annie Heilbrunn](#)

Saturday, June 16, 2012

**Q:** What was it like growing up in Memphis? Did you ever go to Graceland?

**A:** I can't remember going to Graceland. Most people from Memphis don't really go to Graceland that much (laughs). But it was nice. Small neighborhood, a lot of neighborhood friends. Always outside, playing all kinds of pickup games — basketball, football, baseball. That was kind of an everyday thing.

**Q:** How did you get your start in baseball?

**A:** My father. He got me in when I was about 3 or 4 years old and it just kind of went from there.

**Q:** When you came out of college (University of Arkansas) and you were drafted in 2008 — what was that day like?

**A:** It was a really good memory. I had all my family there, my brother actually was playing summer ball and he got to fly out for a couple days. I had a couple of my buddies that were on the team and we had a big barbecue. It was good times, good people, and when my name got called, just a big dog-pile in the middle of the living room. It was fun.

**Q:** You were called up early last year and ended up playing a good chunk of the season, even though you went back and forth between the majors and the minors a few times. What did you take from last year?

**A:** I learned a lot last year. A lot of guys helped me out, just kind of with my everyday routine and getting a feel for how things are run around here and getting comfortable with that. It was tough at first, doing the pinch-hit thing, the spot starts here and there, but it was definitely worth sitting on the bench and listening to guys talk about the game and watching great players play. That's something I tried to take from last year. It helped me out, and I went into the offseason with a couple other things under my belt and that's what I've been working on.

**Q:** Going down to the minors, up to the majors — that's the life of a baseball player — but how do you mentally stay in the right place during all of that?

**A:** It's tough. It's a lot of experience, going through most of it. You know, a new situation hits you and it takes a little bit to learn how to deal with it. By the time you get up here, you've experienced most everything in the game. It's just about staying strong.

**Q:** Fast forward to this spring training. You're having a very promising camp, and then all of a sudden, you get this fractured left foot. That had to be so frustrating.

**A:** It was really frustrating. I had a great offseason, everything was healthy coming in, and then the first week I started feeling something. This is the first year I actually had a chance to win a spot, so I think that was the more frustrating part, is that I wasn't able to play with the guys and show what I worked for in the offseason. But it's good now. I'm here and now it's time to roll.

**Q:** You've played second, third, shortstop. Which position are you most comfortable?

**A:** It's gotta be third because I grew up playing third. It's definitely exciting now because I feel comfortable in all three positions and I don't get frustrated with, "Oh, I'm playing this, and this" like I was in the minors. When I get up here it's, "I'm playing, I'm playing" and I'm excited. And the more versatile you are, the better. You gotta look at the positives. There's too much failure in this game to look at the negative parts of the game. Just look at the positives. You're playing — play that position well.

**Q:** Best piece of advice someone ever gave you?

**A:** Stay even-keeled.

## **PADRES: Mets provide an example as Padres deliberate on Petco's dimensions**

1 hour ago • By [DAN HAYES dhayes@nctimes.com](mailto:DHAYES@NCTIMES.COM)

Sandy Alderson didn't need long to decide the vast dimensions of the New York Mets' Citi Field needed significant changes.

Having spent four seasons with the Padres at similarly spacious Petco Park, the Mets' general manager knows how damaging a pitcher-friendly ballpark can be to the home team's offense.

Hitters not only have to battle pitchers, they also must endure a daily mental competition against the dimensions.

Confidence can wane when well-struck balls are caught on the warning track. Teams whose hitters voice frustrations can become undone in an instant.

And the ballpark can develop a reputation that prevents the home team from competing for free agent hitters.

Less than a year after his October 2010 hire in New York, Alderson announced the Mets had submitted plans to Major League Baseball to bring in the fences by up to 17 feet in one spot and lower them by eight feet in another.

"The opposition comes into Citi Field for three games ... they don't change anything," Alderson said. "It doesn't have any lasting psychological effects. You play half your games in those ballparks, it has an impact. It causes at least some hitters, if not all hitters, to change their approach."

The Padres are exploring similar changes at Petco Park.

In April, the team said it plans to study the impact moving the fences would have at a venue where the Padres hit just 500 home runs in their first 677 games.

Five hitting coaches have come and gone in the nine seasons the Padres have occupied Petco Park, unable to solve the struggles that constantly envelop the team's offense and frustrate its hitters.

Ultimately, the Padres want their home to feel more like one.

"To get it to neutral, it would have to be a Little League field," interim CEO Tom Garfinkel said of Petco's dimensions. "It's to create a less extreme environment that's more reflective of the way the game was intended to be played."

In five seasons with the Padres, Adrian Gonzalez routinely changed his hitting approach for home games. He tried to drive the ball to left field and center field in order to avoid right-center field, which he once told Alderson in 2008 needed to be moved in by 15-20 feet.

Gonzalez also admitted he tried to hit home runs on the road.

The Cincinnati Reds' Ryan Ludwick said his roughly one season with the Padres "screwed me up" because he was forced to change from a gap-to-gap hitter into a dead-pull hitter.

Scouts believed Chase Headley was capable of 20-25 home runs per season when he arrived from the minor leagues in 2008 with a reputation for putting the ball in the air.

But driving the ball into the spacious gaps in right- and left-center field at Petco often results in an out, and Headley's penchant for hitting fly balls has decreased significantly during his big-league stay. After putting the ball in the air on nearly 37 percent of his minor league at-bats, Headley's percentage stood at 29 percent through his first 232 at-bats this season. In his three full major league seasons, Headley has never hit more than 12 home runs, though he is on pace for 18 this season.

"It's always the offense that takes the blame," Headley said. "It's frustrating for guys to go and put together a good at-bat and don't get anything for it and then get criticized constantly. I definitely have never seen anybody defeated by it, but there is frustration."

While Padres manager Bud Black is willing to discuss altering the park's dimensions, not all of the former pitcher's protégés think the fences should be moved. Padres hitters might struggle at home, but the team's pitchers have benefited greatly.

"If guys are complaining about not hitting enough home runs, then they shouldn't try to hit them here," reliever Luke Gregerson said. "This game isn't based around home runs. I think they should focus more on getting hits and moving runners around the bases."

The Padres say their aim is simply to make the park play less extreme.

The basis for the Padres' study is to identify balls that result in outs at Petco but would be a home run at almost any other ballpark. Using an upgraded version of PITCHf/x ---- a system that measures the speed of a ball off the bat and trajectory angle ---- analysts believe they can identify the number of home runs Petco's dimensions have prevented.

"I don't think anyone's goal here is to shape some magic competitive advantage," Padres baseball operations director Josh Stein said. "Big picture, it's to create a little bit more of a neutral environment that allows for different types of games."

## **Petco preview**

The Padres' trip to New York last month gave them an idea of what to expect if the club brings in the fences at Petco.

The Mets' new dimensions, which brought the fences in at several points anywhere from 13-17 feet and lowered them from 16 feet to 8 feet in left field, debuted in April.

The Mets declined to say how much the changes cost. But the price appears to be worth it. The alterations have infused New York hitters with added confidence and allowed the team to install new bleacher seats that sell for \$100-\$200.

[ESPN.com](http://ESPN.com) reports that Citi Field surrendered 17 home runs this year that wouldn't have left the field of play last year through the Mets' last homestand. Five of those home runs traveled at least 408 feet.

Padres catcher Nick Hundley homered in the series opener at Citi Field, and the Mets hit three in a Saturday victory, including one by ex-Padres outfielder Scott Hairston.

Hairston, who played at Petco with the Padres from 2007-10, favors similar changes in San Diego.

"It's always a good feeling when you're playing in a park that's fair," Hairston said. "Last year, the dimensions here were a little unfair to the hitters. But now things have changed. It's been a good adjustment. It brings more confidence, definitely. I know it's still early, but when it's all said and done I know we'll look back and say it was a good change."

Hundley's home run, a 375-foot blast to left field during the Friday victory at Citi Field, would not have cleared the fence in 2011.

The shot would have likely gone for a homer at Petco, too, but that's because the East Village venue plays fair to left and center fields. While the left field dimensions at Petco run from 336 feet down the line to 367 feet and center field stands at 396 feet, the gaps in left-center (401) and right-center fields (400) require quite a drive. The same goes for right field, which the team's media guide lists at 378 feet.

"Citi Field is still big, and seeing how they moved (the fences) in, (the previous dimensions were) just unfair," Hundley said. "That was worse than (Petco). If I hit that same ball here, it's a home run. Those balls should be home runs. If you get it, square it up, it should be a home run. If you hit it pretty good, well then, roll the dice and hope you hit it to the right part of the park."

## **The study**

Now in his 10th season with the Padres, Stein has studied potential fence changes several times. This time, he has the technology to base his recommendations on more than educated guesses.

Since 2011, PITCHf/x has documented a player's bat speed and the trajectory angle at which the ball leaves the bat as well as the pitch velocity. Stein said the club had good data before, but was still subjected to a guessing game of sorts. Now they can pinpoint how a ball hit at Petco Park would play in MLB's 29 other stadiums.

"It's made the whole study of it much more precise," Stein said. "We always had interesting data where we could break things down based on a subjective determination ---- hard, medium and soft. It was really valuable. But what was the cutoff between hard and medium? Was it 80 mph? 90 mph? We were always talking to our data providers to define that, and now we have very close to precisely what the ball's characteristics are off the bat."

When Hundley said a hitter has no guarantees on balls hit "pretty good" to certain parts of Petco, the Padres have accurate information to support him. Ryan Klesko, who said Petco Park once robbed him of three homers in a 2004 game, could have told you the same thing nine years ago when he and Phil Nevin openly complained about the deep fences. But a Padres' analyst now knows that balls hit to right-center field have zero chance to result in a home run unless they're hit at the right angle and come off the bat at 100 mph or more.

The Padres plan to study the fences for the rest of this season. They would have to submit plans to MLB between September and December in order for their changes to be approved in time for the 2013 season.

## **Park effects**

Last month, [ESPN.com](http://ESPN.com) reported in detail about a 2011 altercation among Headley, Ludwick and reliever Mike Adams about Petco ---- which has never ranked higher than 26th in runs, according to park factors (a measurement of how pitcher-friendly or hitter-friendly ballparks are).

Headley and several other Padres refute the story.

Shortstop Khalil Greene was so frustrated by his season-long struggle with the ballpark that he broke his finger in August 2008 when he punched a wall. Nevin pointed to then-general manager Kevin Towers' suite and flung his helmet in disgust after a long double to right-center field in 2004. A postgame dispute between the two followed.

"I've seen it ruin some guys mentally, especially when power is their biggest attribute," said Dodgers outfielder Tony Gwynn Jr., who played two seasons for the Padres. "It can take its toll. There are two ways to handle it. You saw Adrian handle it in a way that's going to make him a better hitter. He didn't care. He might have minded, but it made him a better hitter. Or you can just succumb to the pressures of the wall being too deep and the ball not traveling well and it can ruin your whole year."

Players aren't the only ones who have been hurt.

Hitting coaches Dave Magadan, Merv Rettenmund, Jim Lefebvre and Randy Ready have all been dismissed by the Padres since Petco opened in 2004 because of the team's offensive failures. Wally Joyner quit in 2008 as the team was set to fire him.

It's also easy to attribute the hitting woes to the park because the Padres have shown offensive competency in road games. From 2004-07, the Padres ranked fifth in the National League in runs scored on the road, averaging 5.07 runs per game, significantly better than the league average (4.70). Over the same period, the Padres averaged 3.94 runs per game at Petco Park.

Black said Alderson and Towers discussed shortening Petco's outfield dimensions when both still worked for the Padres, but talk of moving the fences was quiet under former GM Jed Hoyer and former CEO Jeff Moorad.

"I know some people have walked the outfield, walked the fence line, and there have been some ideas jotted down," Black said. "Sandy and KT were always toying with the idea."

With Garfinkel in charge, the Padres are once again thinking about the idea. Garfinkel declined to estimate what the changes would cost but didn't think the price would be exorbitant.

Either way, don't expect Petco to become as home run friendly as Coors Field in Denver.

"It's not going to change the park," outfielder Mark Kotsay said. "It'll affect a few balls, but it will make it play fair."



How Petco would play with new fences is uncertain. The same goes for Citi Field, which after 31 games has yielded 50 homers and is on pace to tie the park's single-season high of 130 set in 2009 ---- though Alderson believes numbers should increase as summer temperatures rise.

"We play in a prominent pitcher's park also, so our goal was to make it more neutral," Alderson said. "That was our intent, and whether or not we've succeeded in doing that, time will only tell. It's very difficult to predict what will happen when you make those modifications."

### **Road/home breakdown**

*The Padres have scored more runs on the road than they have at home in each of their eight full seasons at Petco Park. Their rank among Major League Baseball's 30 teams is in parenthesis.*

	<b>Road</b>	<b>Home</b>
2004	439 (6)	329 (28)
2005	376 (10)	308 (29)
2006	416 (7)	315 (30)
2007	418 (6)	323 (30)
2008	348 (21)	289 (30)
2009	360 (14)	278 (30)
2010	343 (17)	322 (26)
2011	338 (17)	255 (29)

---- **Dan Hayes**

### **Tee it up**

*Petco Park yielded 1,024 home runs during its first eight seasons (2004-2011). By comparison, these five hitter-friendly parks each allowed at least 450 more during the same period.*

Great American Ballpark, Cincinnati | 1,732

U.S. Cellular Field, Chicago | 1,706

Rangers Ballpark, Arlington, Texas | 1,612

Oriole Park at Camden Yards, Baltimore | 1,522

Coors Field, Denver | 1,472

---- **Dan Hayes**

## **Hitters beware**

*Baseball's stingier venues for home runs from 2004-11.*

Petco Park, San Diego | 1,024

AT&T Park, San Francisco | 1,024

PNC Park, Pittsburgh | 1,091

O.co Coliseum, Oakland | 1,119

Safeco Field, Seattle | 1,168

**---- Dan Hayes**

## **MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL: LCC grad Swanner shipshape for home run derby**

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

Will Swanner can't wait for Monday.

The former La Costa Canyon High standout is playing for low-Single-A Asheville in the Colorado Rockies' system and has been named to the Southern Division team for Tuesday's South Atlantic League All-Star game.

Monday, though, the slugging catcher will take part in the league's home run derby.

This, however, is no ordinary home run derby. The first round of the event will take place on the USS Yorktown, the World War II- and Vietnam-era aircraft carrier that now serves as an exhibit at the Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum in Charleston, S.C.

"I'm so looking forward to this," said Swanner, a 15th-round draft pick in 2010. "It could be about the coolest thing I've ever done.

"I understand we're going to hit balls off the ship into the water. My girlfriend will be there to take pictures. I want to remember this."

Swanner, 20, is having a season to remember, hitting .333 with seven home runs, 18 doubles and 31 RBIs.

He had 10 homers in 43 minor-league games last season and seven homers in 18 games after signing with the Rockies in 2010, giving him 24 in 103 games as a professional.

"I have such a long way to go to get to the major leagues, but I'm happy with my career so far," Swanner said. "My strikeout-to-walk ratio is much better. I'm hitting for a better average now, not just for power.

"Marv Foley (the Rockies roving catching coordinator) has taught me a lot --- how to set up hitters, how to work with pitchers.

"Really, I'm in a pretty good place right now."

### **All-Stars**

---- Slugging first baseman Nate Freiman (.289, 15 home runs, 53 RBIs), catcher Ali Solis (.292-4-25) and infielder Dean Anna (.293-5-23) of the Padres' Double-A affiliate in San Antonio were named to the South Division team for the Texas League All-Star game.

---- Lake Elsinore pitchers Donn Roach (10-1, 1.94 ERA) and Kevin Quackenbush (1-1, 13 saves, 0.94), infielder Cory Spangenberg (.293-1-32) and outfielders Rico Noel (.305-0-16) and Rymer Liriano (.299-4-36) will represent the California League in Tuesday's all-star game against the Carolina League in Winston-Salem, N.C.

---- Catcher Austin Hedges (.273-5-27), shortstop Jace Peterson (.289-1-22), and pitchers Adys Portillo (4-4, 1.92) and Frank Garces (2-4, 2.88), all Padres' farmhands at low-Single-A Fort Wayne, will play in Tuesday's Midwest League All-Star game.

---- Outfielder Roberto Lopez (Rancho Bernardo High), who plays for Double-A Arkansas in the Angels' chain, was named to the North Division team for the Texas League All-Star game.

---- Left-hander Nick Schmidt, a former first-round pick of the Padres who was traded to the Rockies in the deal that brought Huston Street to the Padres, is 4-3 with a 3.38 ERA with Double-A Tulsa and made the North Division team for the Texas League All-Star game.

## **Signees**

---- Right-hander Nolan Gannon (Santa Fe Cristian), a fourth-round pick of the Rays last month, signed and received a \$288,500 bonus.

---- The Padres signed infielder River Stevens (Mission Hills/Palomar College), a ninth-round pick, for a bonus of \$129,000. He got his first professional hit Friday against Yakima.

---- Right-hander Luc Rennie (Torrey Pines), a 16th-round pick, has signed with the Orioles.

---- Pitcher Austin Muehring (Rancho Bernardo/Palomar College), a 19th-round pick, has signed with the Reds.

---- Outfielder Brennan Metzger (Mission Hills), a 22nd-round pick, has signed with the Giants.

---- Right-hander Nick Carmichael (Rancho Bernardo/Palomar College), drafted in the 24th round, has signed with the Tigers.

---- Catcher B.K. Santy (Rancho Bernardo/Palomar College), a 30th-round pick, has signed with the Twins.

---- Outfielder Wynton Bernard (Rancho Bernardo), taken in the 35th round by the Padres, and outfielder Anthony Renteria (Palomar College/Cal State San Marcos), a 39th-round pick, have signed.

---- UC San Diego pitcher Tony York (Escondido) has signed as a free agent with the Cubs. The right-hander was 2-1 with 10 saves and a 2.10 ERA for the Tritons this season.

---- Pitcher Patrick Smith (Palomar College), who played at Cal Baptist the last two seasons, signed as a free agent with the Astros.

## **Padres notes**

---- Nick Vincent (Ramona/Palomar College) hasn't allowed a baserunner in his last four appearances with Double-A San Antonio. The 25-year-old relief pitcher continues to recover from a badly sprained ankle suffered in spring training.

---- Fallbrook grad Clark Murphy, 22, opened the Northwest League season in style Friday, going 4-for-5 with two home runs, a walkoff double and five RBIs as Eugene beat Yakima 6-5 in 10 innings.

### **Local notes**

---- In his last three starts with Kannapolis in the White Sox's chain, right-hander Kevin Vance (Torrey Pines) has allowed just three earned runs with 15 strikeouts in 16 2/3 innings.

---- Outfielder Drew Muren (Ramona) was promoted to Double-A Corpus Christi by the Astros.

---- Alex Dickerson (Poway) has a six-game hitting streak and is hitting .366 over his last 10 games for Bradenton in the Pirates' system.

---- Erik Castro (Fallbrook) has six RBIs in his last three games for Lancaster in the Astros' system.

## **PADRES: Second pick Eflin signs below slotted amount**

17 hours ago • [By DAN HAYES dhayes@nctimes.com](mailto:DHAYES@NCTIMES.COM)

SAN DIEGO ---- The Padres agreed to terms with supplemental-first round draft choice Zach Eflin for a less-than-slot \$1.2 million pending a physical, a team source confirmed Saturday.

Eflin, a 6-foot-5, 200-pound right-handed pitcher from Oviedo, Fla., was selected 33rd overall in the draft, a pick the Padres received as compensation after Heath Bell signed with the Miami Marlins in the offseason.

Eflin went 7-0 with 0.51 ERA and 59 strikeouts in 43 innings for Hagerty High this season. The suggested slot amount for the 33rd pick was \$1.525 million.

The Padres agreed to terms with first-rounder Max Fried for the slotted amount of \$3 million on Friday.

A source said the Padres are also close to a deal with St. John's outfielder Jeremy Baltz, whom the club selected with the 68th overall pick. The suggested slot for Baltz is \$757,900.

## **PADRES: Bullpen doesn't do the job, again**

16 hours ago • [Associated Press](#)

OAKLAND — Luke Gregerson bounced a pitch in front of Padres catcher John Baker, costing the Padres a one-run lead. It turned out to be the least of his troubles.

Three pitches later, Gregerson gave up a two-run home run to Oakland pinch-hitter Jonny Gomes that provided the difference in the Padres' 6-4 loss to the Athletics on Saturday.

Now after winning three straight games in Seattle to begin the week, the Padres are on the verge of getting swept themselves.

"It's been like that all year," first baseman Yonder Alonso said. "There's no quitting in us. We're going to keep fighting but it's definitely something I've never gone through. It's been a learning experience."

Carlos Quentin hit a home run and Will Venable also drove in two runs for the Padres, who came back from a three-run deficit in the fifth and briefly led before dropping their second straight in this interleague series with Oakland.

On Friday, the Padres gave up five runs in the first inning and trailed the rest of the way. A day later, they had a late lead before the bullpen let it slip away.

A's shortstop Cliff Pennington, who had reached base in his last seven at-bats before fouling out in the eighth, walked to open the seventh. One out later he went to second on Weeks' single and to third on Josh Reddick's fielder's choice.

Gregerson replaced Joe Thatcher one pitch into Gomes' at-bat and immediately bounced a pitch that allowed Pennington to score the tying run. Gomes then hit Gregerson's 3-1 delivery into the left field bleachers.

Gregerson had allowed only one run over his previous seven outings until Gomes ended his 0-for-34 slump as a pinch-hitter.

"Luke's been good on righties," Black said. "It just didn't happen today. He fell behind and it hurt him."

Seth Smith also homered for the A's, who have won a season-high five straight. Jemile Weeks and Collin Cowgill drove in runs.

Sean Doolittle (1-0) pitched the seventh and earned his first major league victory.

Padres starter Ross Ohlendorf lasted 4 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings in his first start of the season, allowing three runs on five hits. He walked two and struck out three.

A's starter Tyson Ross, in his first big league start in nearly three weeks, took a no-hitter into the sixth inning before giving up a two-run, two-out home run to Quentin.

Ross allowed the two runs on one hit over his six innings. He walked four and struck out six in his first major league start since May 30.

Ohlendorf didn't allow a hit in the first three innings. Smith's seventh home run of the season cleared the center field wall with one out. Brandon Moss doubled and Cowgill singled later in the inning to put the A's ahead 2-0.

"They took advantage of some balls out over the plate but overall (Ohlendorf) hung in there," Black said. "They nicked him for a few runs but overall there was more good than bad."

Weeks made it 3-0 with an RBI double in the fifth.

Quentin's home run, his sixth of the season, brought the Padres within one in the sixth. Quentin was hit by a pitch for the 102nd time in his career in the second inning.

Venable's two-run double against Doolittle in the seventh put San Diego ahead 4-3.