<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wood, Padres claim another series win against Diamondbacks</td>
<td>UT San Diego</td>
<td>Lin</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Padres swinging away as MLB home run record falls</td>
<td>UT San Diego</td>
<td>Lin</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First pitch: The unflappable Craig Stammen</td>
<td>UT San Diego</td>
<td>Sanders</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second basemen to watch in the Padres' farm system</td>
<td>UT San Diego</td>
<td>Sanders</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First basemen to watch in the Padres' farm system</td>
<td>UT San Diego</td>
<td>Sanders</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myers' adjustments leading to success, results</td>
<td>MLB.com</td>
<td>Ruiz</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood, Padres notch series win vs. D-backs</td>
<td>MLB.com</td>
<td>Cassavell/Gilbert</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jones set to partake in tailgate at Petco Park</td>
<td>MLB.com</td>
<td>Cassavell</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamet to start final game vs. D-backs in '17</td>
<td>MLB.com</td>
<td>Ruiz</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood helps lift Padres over D'backs, 6-2</td>
<td>Associated Press</td>
<td>AP</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Padres look for sweep Wednesday vs Diamondbacks</td>
<td>FOX Sports</td>
<td>Stats</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Padres On Deck: Baseball America ranks Nix’s 11 K shutout among MiLB Best in ‘17</td>
<td>Friar Wire</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wood, Padres claim another series win against Diamondbacks

Dennis Lin

A.J. Pollock redirected Travis Wood’s fifth pitch for a home run, and it felt as if Wood might be in for another ugly cameo. Over his previous two starts, the Padres lefty had worked just 4 1/3 innings and conceded five home runs. The rest of a formidable Arizona lineup awaited.

Instead, Wood did not allow another hit until the fifth inning. The pitcher himself produced one of the night’s most impressive at-bats. Pollock homered again, but the Diamondbacks were otherwise frustrated as the Padres continued to be a recent problem in Tuesday’s 6-2 victory at Petco Park.

To begin their latest road trip, the Padres had beaten the D-backs twice. They ended their travel with only one more win, stolen at Colorado on the final day. In between, Wood surrendered a career-high nine runs during a 16-0 embarrassment at Minnesota.

The left-hander, who was acquired at low cost in July, has looked servicable at times. On a few occasions, such as last week, his performance has left his rotation membership looking questionable.

In his 10th start with San Diego, Wood appeared to have plenty left. The veteran’s contributions were not limited to the mound, though that was where they were most welcome.

“I left one up, (Pollock) did his job,” Wood said. “I felt good, so I was just like, Let’s just lock it back in and really attack.”

Pollock went 2-for-2 with a walk against Wood, cranking his second solo shot in the sixth. Wood yielded only one other hit, a Ketel Marte single. His defense turned a double play in three consecutive innings. He completed six innings of two-run ball, departing with a 5-2 lead.

“This was the first time in the last three starts I thought there was some life to the baseball,” manager Andy Green said. “Even when Pollock hit that ball, I was optimistic about how the day was going to go.”

The Padres had built their advantage with multiple spurts of offense.
In the bottom of the first, Manuel Margot, Carlos Asuaje and Wil Myers all singled. Yangervis Solarte recorded a sacrifice fly, making the first out against Arizona starter Zack Godley while putting the Padres ahead, 2-1.

Myers, who’d watched a line drive deflect off the left-field wall, cost himself a base by not going to second as the throw went to third.

“You’ve just got to be better and have more awareness of what’s going on in the situation instead of thinking you hit a home run,” Myers said. “It’s not really a conscious thought to get out of the box slow. It’s just one of those things where you’ve just got to break that habit to really get out of the box and think ‘two’ out of the box.”

Said Green: “I think it’s the third time he’s hit a ball off the wall this year and it turned into a single. … He gets to where he spectates, and it’s something that he can turn the page on.”

The first baseman ran harder in the bottom of the third, sprinting for a leadoff double. He was rewarded for his hustle; up next, Solarte scored him with a single.

Later in the inning, Wood saw eight pitches, fouling off three of them. He deposited the last offering into center field. Two runs scored, and the Padres led, 5-1.

Since returning to the National League, Wood has delivered on his reputation as a pitcher with an idea at the plate; for the Padres, he is 4-for-16 with two home runs and six RBIs.

“I know how frustrating that is (as a pitcher),” Wood said. “Just stay in the at-bat, do everything you can, especially with the bases loaded right there and a chance to help your own cause, help the team out. That’s huge.”

After Pollock’s second homer, San Diego quickly restored its previous cushion. Margot drew a one-out walk, dashed to second on a wild pitch and scored on a single by Asuaje.

Margot, Asuaje and Myers each finished with two hits.

Relievers Phil Maton, Buddy Baumann and Jose Torres each threw a scoreless inning as the Padres claimed their second consecutive series win against Arizona.
“They’re a great team, but I feel like we’ve played them pretty well,” Myers said. “I think we’ve really enjoyed playing the ‘spoiler’ team so far.”
Padres swinging away as MLB home run record falls

Dennis Lin

At 9:14 Tuesday night in Toronto, Alex Gordon pummeled a belt-high cutter thrown by Ryan Tepera. The ball hurtled over Rogers Centre’s outfield fence, and with that, major leaguers had powered their way to 5,694 home runs with nearly two weeks left in the regular season. The all-time record, last set in 2000, at the height of the Steroids Era, had received an update.

On the West Coast, the Padres’ game against the Arizona Diamondbacks was one of four that had yet to begin. With a dozen contests left in 2017, San Diego needed only one home run to tie the franchise-high 177 launched a season ago. (In a 6-2 victory, the Padres would finish with nine hits but no home runs.

Conclusive answers, meanwhile, remained in short supply. Commissioner Rob Manfred has steadfastly maintained that the baseballs have not changed, that drug testing is more effective than ever, that no definitive explanation exists for the home-run spike. On the last point, there appears to be consensus.

“I don’t think there’s any reason,” Padres catcher Austin Hedges said before Tuesday’s game. “There’s probably a hundred reasons.”

Hedges is one of many hitters who have been rather one-dimensional this season. The 25-year-old on Monday crushed his 18th home run, the drive carrying 430 feet into Petco Park’s visiting bullpen. Yet Hedges, an ace defender, entered Tuesday batting .210 with a .253 on-base percentage, an example of how modern players have traded contact for distance.

“I’m definitely trying to hit the ball in the air,” Hedges said. “Not necessarily hit a home run, but I’m looking to drive the ball. I feel like unless you’re a fast lefty, there’s no reason to really hit the ball on the ground.”

The game’s increasing aversion to low trajectories has come at a cost. The leaguewide record for strikeouts will rise for a 10th consecutive year. Sacrifices, hit-and-runs and other, more subtle forms of offense have been scrapped in favor of all-or-nothing approaches. At a time when baseball’s greatest challenge is its connection to younger viewers, the action often drags.
Still, there is appeal, and a measure of necessity, in the latest developments.

“There’s not really the guys that shoot the balls all over the field anymore,” said Padres first baseman Wil Myers, who, with 28 homers through Monday, was on the verge of a new career high. “They want the power-type of hitters. … I think that the home run has become so valued in today’s game, especially with the way the pitching’s going, that that’s what people work on.”

Indeed, average fastball velocities are at an all-time high. Bullpens continue to offer a wide array of looks, though 95 mph and above is now the norm. Pitch usage, too, has supplied a new variable.

“More guys are using the four-seam fastball up in the zone to change (a batter’s) eye level,” Padres right-hander Jhoulys Chacin said.

Myers agreed: “People are hitting the two-seam fastball more, and now they’re starting to throw the four-seam elevated, because spin rate’s a big thing. I feel like people are putting value in … getting the swing-and-misses at the top of the zone.”

Of course, a straight, hard fastball that misses its intended target is bad news, at least for one side.

“Those balls go out of the ballpark a little more easily,” Padres manager Andy Green said. “They also miss bats easily.”

Green’s team has been particularly susceptible. The Padres, with one of the majors’ youngest lineups, clearly illustrate the downside of the surge in fence-clearing hits. In spite of their power production, they rank 30th in runs, average and on-base percentage. At the start of Tuesday’s game, they ranked fourth in strikeouts.

“I’m not going to ask for less (home runs) ever,” Green said. “But I definitely like guys getting on base more, and that’s a different recipe for every guy, but more or less it’s staying inside the strike zone, not chasing outside the strike zone. … You’re just not going to be long-term successful as an organization if your chase rate is in the mid-to-upper 30s.” (According to FanGraphs, the Padres swing at pitches outside the strike zone more than 30 percent of the time.)
Green was asked if the Padres’ relative success in the power department — they still were in the bottom third in home runs — has fostered bad habits.

“I don’t think they’re being encouraged to chase more,” Green said. “I think every one of them feels strongly their need to shrink the strike zone and understand when you shrink it those guys have to come back into it and those contribute to them getting hit. There is some early belief in young guys that ‘Hey, when I was in Triple-A, I hit this ball out of the ballpark, and I can hit that ball a foot outside out of the ballpark.’ That belief plays at a certain level of baseball when you can overmatch it with skill. And then you get to this level, it doesn’t play at all. Nobody survives like that.”
First pitch: The unflappable Craig Stammen

Jeff Sanders

The Padres enter today’s game one win shy of the 68 victories amassed in Andy Green’s rookie season a year ago in large part because of the second-year manager’s faith in his bullpen – and in Craig Stammen, in particular.

Sure, Hunter Renfroe jumped on a first-inning fastball for a three-run homer that provided just enough support for Luis Perdomo. Of course, the second-year starting pitcher walked six batters and was on the brink of letting a 4-2 lead slip through his fingers when Green called on Stammen to bail the team out of a one-out, bases-loaded jam in the sixth.

It was nothing Stammen wasn’t used to.

He leads all major league relievers with 25 batters faced with the bases loaded and has held the opposition to two just two hits in that situation, albeit one was a grand slam. With the sacks packed, Stammen has also struck out six and fetched three double plays.

On Monday, Stammen needed just seven pitches to escape trouble: He got a fly out to right that wasn’t deep enough to test Renfroe’s arm and then a pop up on the infield to get out of the inning unscathed.

“Nobody does that – no matter how good you are,” Green marveled after Stammen’s latest escape act. “At some point in time somebody gets you. His ability to navigate those situations, to execute big pitches under pressure … is like nothing I’ve seen.

“A pitcher like that makes a manager look really smart.”

Back in action

Travis Jankowski is hitting seventh and playing left field in his first big league start since a fractured foot sent him to the DL in April.
Jankowski was hitting .160/.263/.180 with two steals and 21 strikeouts in 17 games to start the year. He hit .266/.350/.317 with 11 RBIs, eight steals and 28 strikeouts in 35 games at Triple-A El Paso.

Notable

- **OF Jose Pirela** (pinky) was due to hit in the cage before Tuesday’s game. Green said the team would have to consider shutting him down the rest of the season if Pirela did not show improvement.
- The Padres have 80 home runs at home this season, three shy of the single-season Petco Park record set in 2016. The most the Padres have hit at home in club history is 87 at Qualcomm Stadium in 1992 and 1993.
- With Monday’s victory, the Padres have 124 straight games at home when entering the ninth inning with a lead, the longest active streak in baseball.

Up next

- **Wednesday:** D-backs LHP Robbie Ray (14-5, 2.74) vs. Padres RHP Dinelson Lamet (7-7, 4.15), 6:10 p.m.
Second basemen to watch in the Padres' farm system

Jeff Sanders

A weakness not all that long ago, the Padres’ depth up the middle – at second base and shortstop – has improve drastically since A.J. Preller moved into the general manager’s office in August 2014. He inherited the organization’s top prospect at second base from the previous regime, included rookie second baseman Carlos Asuaje and Double-A shortstop Javier Guerra among the returns for closer Craig Kimbrel and has spent a good deal of his international slot money the last three years on up-the-middle talent that’s beginning to move up the farm system.

Here’s a rundown of the second basemen (some of whom could moonlight as shortstops) to know in the Padres’ farm system and how they fared in 2017:

1. Luis Urias

- **Age:** 20
- **Team(s):** Double-A San Antonio
- **2017 stats:** .296 avg., .398 OBP, .380 SLG, 3 HRs, 38 RBIs, 77 runs, 7 steals, 65 strikeouts (118 games, 442 at-bats)
- **Height/Weight:** 5-foot-9, 160 pounds
- **Bats/Throws:** R/R
- **How acquired:** Signed as a non-drafted free agent in December 2013 (Mexico)
- **Need to know:** Ranked No. 3 in the Padres system and No. 55 overall by MLB.com, Urias finished 2016 – his first year of full-season ball – as the California League MVP. He was invited to his first big league camp in February, represented Mexico in the World Baseball Classic and opened the season as the youngest player in the Texas League. No matter. All Urias did was hit .343 over the first two months en route to a mid-season all-star selection. Tired of giving up opposite-field hits, pitchers busting him inside slowed Urias in the second half (.694 OPS). Given Urias’ advanced feel for the strike zone, the organization, however, is confident Urias will make that adjustment in stride as he has walked (153) more than he’s struck out (135) in his career. In the field, Urias’ arm was strong enough to give him looks at shortstop to boost his overall stock even further.
2. Esteury Ruiz

- **Age:** 18
- **Team(s):** Rookie AZL Royals, Rookie AZL Padres
- **2017 stats:** .350 avg., .395 OBP, .602 SLG, 4 HRs, 39 RBIs, 45 runs, 26 steals, 34 strikeouts (52 games, 206 at-bats)
- **Height/Weight:** 6-foot, 150 pounds
- **Bats/Throws:** R/R
- **How acquired:** Trade with Royals in July 2017
- **Need to know:** Signed by the Royals for $100,000, Ruiz was packaged with pitchers Travis Wood and Matt Strahm in the deal that sent pitchers Trevor Cahill, Brandon Maurer and Ryan Buchter to Kansas City before the trade deadline. Although the organization has high expectations for Strahm as a rotation hopeful next year, a rival team official deemed Ruiz as potentially the best player from the trade. He was ranked among the Dominican Summer League’s best prospects in 2016 by Baseball America and won the Arizona League batting title this year as a “power-speed combo guy … who can do damage,” as Preller put it at the time of the trade. … Ruiz is ranked No. 30 in the organization by MLB.com.

3. Eguy Rosario

- **Age:** 18
- **Team(s):** Low Single-A Fort Wayne, Rookie AZL Padres
- **2017 stats:** .246 avg., .332 OBP, .355 SLG, 1 HR, 46 RBIs, 51 runs, 33 steals, 94 strikeouts (100 games, 386 at-bats)
- **Height/Weight:** 5-foot-9, 150 pounds
- **Bats/Throws:** R/R
- **How acquired:** Signed as a non-drafted free agent in August 2015 (Dominican Republic)
• **Need to know:** Few of the Padres’ teenagers have moved as fast as Rosario, who hit his way out of the Dominican Summer League as a 16-year-old, held his own last summer in the Arizona League and was assigned to Fort Wayne as one of the youngest players in the Midwest League. The Padres ultimately pulled back on the aggressive assignment, moving Rosario back to Arizona after a .206/.296/.278 start with the TinCaps this year. He still swiped 17 of his system-best 33 bases in Fort Wayne and profiles as a top-of-the-order hitter with speed and gap power. Look for Rosario – ranked No. 29 in the organization by MLB.com – to get another crack at Fort Wayne next spring.

4. Nate Easley

- **Age:** 21
- **Team(s):** Low Single-A Fort Wayne, High Single-A Lake Elsinore
- **2017 stats:** .248 avg., .350 OBP, .372 SLG, 4 HRs, 26 RBIs, 40 runs, 14 steals, 66 strikeouts (81 games, 274 at-bats)
- **Height/Weight:** 5-foot-10, 170 pounds
- **Bats/Throws:** R/R
- **How acquired:** 23rd round in 2016 (Yuvapai College, Ariz.)
- **Need to know:** The son of former major league infielder Damion Easley – a coach in the Padres’ farm system – Nate Easley played more outfield than second base in his second year in the organization. After a slow start in the Midwest League and five-game cameo in Lake Elsinore, Easley was far more productive in the second half, lifting his OPS from .589 to .811.

5. Reinaldo Ilarraza

- **Age:** 18
- **Team(s):** Low Single-A Fort Wayne
- **2017 stats:** .229 avg., .295 OBP, .298 SLG, 4 HRs, 45 RBIs, 58 runs, 26 steals, 149 strikeouts (126 games, 480 at-bats)
• **Height/Weight:** 5-foot-10, 150 pounds
• **Bats/Throws:** S/R
• **How acquired:** Signed as a non-drafted free agent in July 2015 (Venezuela)
• **Need to know:** The Padres signed him for $300,000 on the first day of the 2015-2016 international signing bonus, the first with the Padres for Preller and international scouting director **Chris Kemp**. He played 13 games in the Arizona Rookie League in 2016 (.506 OPS) and spent all of his first full year of pro ball as one of the youngest players in the Midwest League. The aggressive education, like for so many TinCaps, paid off in the second half as Ilarraza raised his OPS from .532 to .658 after the All-Star break. A broken finger ended his season as the TinCaps began the playoffs.

**Other names to know:** Peter Van Gansen (AAA), Chris Baker (A+), Matthew Batten (SS), Kelvin Alarcon (R), Justin Lopez (SS).
First basemen to watch in the Padres' farm system

Jeff Sanders

By virtue of the six-year, $83 million extension inked in January, Wil Myers is the first baseman of today, tomorrow and the not-too-distant future. While the jury is certainly still out on the pact with the Padres’ 2016 All-Star – he’s got a .759 OPS in 902 plate appearances since last year’s All-Star break – Myers is at the very least providing stability while the Padre develop their youngest position groups.

First base at Triple-A El Paso in 2017 was manned exclusively by minor league journeymen. The Padres’ top prospect at the position turned 20 in June before an aggressive promotion to the Texas League. Their second spent an entire second season at low Single-A Fort Wayne and the depth behind Josh Naylor and Brad Zunica largely depends on who emerges from the last two signing periods/draft classes.

Here’s a rundown of the first basemen to know in the Padres’ farm system and how they fared in 2017:

1. Josh Naylor
   - Age: 20
   - Team(s): High Single-A Lake Elsinore, Double-A San Antonio
   - 2017 stats: .280 avg., .346 OBP, .415 SLG, 10 HRs, 64 RBIs, 59 runs, 9 steals, 84 strikeouts (114 games, 439 at-bats)
   - Height/Weight: 6-foot, 225 pounds
   - Bats/throws: L/L
   - How acquired: Trade with Marlins in July 2016
   - Need to know: Selected higher than any other position player out of Canada, Naylor returned to the California League in 2017 with one mission: Punish the baseball. He did so, too, hitting .297/.361/.452 with eight homers and 45 RBIs in 72 games as a mid-season All-Star. He was even selected to a second consecutive All-Star Futures Game before he was promoted to the Texas League, where he was one of a handful of 20-year-olds in the circuit. In San Antonio, Naylor held his own even if his power
numbers dipped as he adjusted to stiffer competition. He hit .250/.320/.346 with two homers and 19 RBIs in 42 games, which aren’t unlike the numbers that Naylor posted last summer when the Padres aggressively assignment him to the Cal League after acquiring him in the Andrew Cashner deal. Look for Naylor to return to the Texas League again in 2018. The challenge for Naylor – who is ranked No. 10 in the organization by MLB.com and won’t turn 21 until next June – will again be to translate extraordinary bat-to-ball skills into more powerful production.

2. Brad Zunica

- **Age:** 21
- **Team(s):** Low Single-A Fort Wayne
- **2017 stats:** .250 avg., .361 OBP, .504 SLG, 18 HRs, 51 RBIs, 44 runs, 1 steal, 102 strikeouts (84 games, 276 at-bats)
- **Height/Weight:** 6-foot-6, 254 pounds
- **Bats/Throws:** L/R
- **How acquired:** 15th round in 2015 (State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota)
- **Need to know:** Even with a foot injury limited Zunica’s at-bats in his second stay in the Midwest League, the defensive-end-sized took significant leaps forward in 2016. He hit four home homers than he did in 2016 (14) in 125 fewer at-bats and lifted his on-base percentage by 67 points. Along the way, Zunica’s strikeout rate jumped from 28.7 percent to 30.9, although that’s not as glaring with Zunica’s slugging percentage ballooning by more than 100 points. He could do significant damage in the hitter-friendly California League in 2018. … Zunica attended the University of Miami as a freshman in 2014.

3. Fernando Perez

**Age:** 24

**Team(s):** Double-A San Antonio, High Single-A Lake Elsinore
2017 stats: .244 avg., .295 OBP, .398 SLG, 13 HRs, 51 RBIs, 49 runs, 0 steals, 101 strikeouts (110 games, 397 at-bats)

Height/Weight: 6-foot, 210 pounds

Bats/Throws: L/R

How acquired: Third round in 2012 (Central Arizona College)

Need to know: An Otay Ranch High product, Perez led the organization with 95 RBIs in his Age 20 season in Fort Wayne in 2014 only to stagnate in recent years. His limitations in the field moved him to first base for the first time in 2017 while his bat had yet to replicate his success in the Midwest League until a third stint in the California League – after struggling in the Texas League to start the year (.212/.279.302). In 47 games in Lake Elsinore to close the year, Perez hit .281/.315/.508 with 10 homers and 33 RBIs. The 2018 season will be his last before reaching minor league free agency.

4. G.K. Young

- Age: 22
- Team(s): Low Single-A Fort Wayne
- 2017 stats: .241 avg., .304 OBP, .401 SLG, 11 HRs, 47 RBIs, 34 runs, 1 steal, 104 strikeouts (91 games, 324 at-bats)
- Height/Weight: 6-foot-1, 225 pounds
- Bats/Throws: L/R
- How acquired: 31st round in 2016 (Coastal Carolina)
- Need to know: A first baseman on Coast Carolina’s national championship team, Young played in just 47 games in the Northwest league after he was drafted last summer. A left-handed hitter with raw power potential, he improved upon last year’s batting line (.209/.292/.322) in his first full season, but has fanned 167 times in his first 138 games as a pro and is hitting .230 over that span. … Young’s first name is George.
5. Jaquez Williams

- **Age**: 19
- **Team(s)**: Rookie AZL Padres
- **2017 stats**: .203 avg., .335 OBP, .378 SLG, 6 HRs, 24 RBIs, 21 runs, 1 steal, 52 strikeouts (43 games, 143 at-bats)
- **Height/Weight**: 6-foot-3, 215 pounds
- **Bats/Throws**: Left/Right
- **How acquired**: 18th round in 2016 (East Coweta HS, Sharpsburg, Ga.)
- **Need to know**: A year after managing just one homer in the Arizona League in his draft year, Williams' second pass through the circuit saw him finish three off the league lead. As intriguing as his power is, Williams needs to make more consistent contact to have a chance at making an impact in full-season ball. In 69 career games in Arizona, Williams has a .190/.303/.349 batting line and 92 strikeouts.

**Other names to know**: Luis Anguizola (SS), Chris Mattison (SS), Justin Paulsen (R), Nick Feight (R), Blinger Perez (R), Jason Pineda (R).
Myers' adjustments leading to success, results

Padres first baseman notches two hits in win vs. D-backs

By Nathan Ruiz / MLB.com

SAN DIEGO -- As Wil Myers seeks to break a habit, he's forming ones providing hope that his season-long slump may have reached its end. Myers went 2-for-4 in San Diego's 6-2 victory over Arizona on Tuesday, continuing a torrid September that has the Padres first baseman looking more like the All-Star he was in 2016. After hitting .233 through August, Myers is 20-for-60 in September. He has seven multi-hit games this month, after having eight in July and August combined.

"I felt really good in the box today, one of the best I've felt all year," Myers said. "It's great just to see some results come back. I've been working like crazy this year to try to find something."

Myers still has areas that need improvement, evidenced by Tuesday's first inning. After smoking a liner to left with two runners on, Myers prematurely entered his home-run trot. When the ball clanked off the wall, Myers, measured by Statcast™ as baseball's fastest first baseman, lacked time to speed toward second, settling for a long single.

Manager Andy Green counted it as the third time Myers admired a stroke off the wall that ended with a single, saying he and Myers have discussed the franchise player's observance "multiple times." Ironically, Myers later started a three-run rally in the third with a hustle double.

"He could've had two doubles today," Green said. "He gets to where he spectates, and it's something that he can turn the page on. He flies. He's the fastest guy we've got. … [If he] hits a ball off the wall, it's a double."

Myers refers to it as a habit, "not really a conscious thought." His tendency to think homer is understandable, given he's tied his career high with 28, but he knows it's an issue that needs correcting.
"I think getting out of the box, thinking I've hit a homer, has been a little bit of a problem this year for me," Myers said. "It's one of those things where you've just got to be better and have more awareness of what's going on in the situation, instead of thinking you hit a home run.

"As the Padres continue to get better and continue to improve to what we want to be, I've got to be able to get out of the box better."

Myers' other habits have allowed him to have success with his bat, though. His timing has improved through slowing the game down. Myers is tied for the National League lead with 19 balls hit harder than 100 mph in September, including three Tuesday. Last month, he put 13 balls in play with such an exit velocity.

It's led to results, as Myers already has 10 extra-base hits this month, after posting eight in August. The 10th came Tuesday when Myers grounded a ball the other way and, with no thoughts of a homer, sprinted into second for a double. His next two at-bats ended in outs, but they came on a 103.2-mph grounder and a 109.5-mph lineout.

Myers has finally started to see results in the box. Once he stops having trouble getting out of it, his September success could blossom beyond just a habit.
Wood, Padres notch series win vs. D-backs

By AJ Cassavell and Steve Gilbert / MLB.com

SAN DIEGO -- Travis Wood knocked in as many runs as he allowed on Tuesday night, sparking a 6-2 Padres win, their fourth in five games this month against the National League Wild Card-seeking D-backs.

Despite two homers from A.J. Pollock, who batted in the leadoff spot for the first time since July, Arizona lost its third game in a row. However, the D-backs maintained their 4 1/2-game lead over the Rockies for the top NL Wild Card spot with 10 games to play. Colorado lost to San Francisco, 4-3, on Tuesday night.

"I feel strongly that we're focused on today," D-backs manager Torey Lovullo said when asked if his team might be distracted by being close to clinching a playoff berth. "We know what's there. We know that this is a special time of the year. I think we're all embracing that and enjoying the games.

We're just not getting that timely hit and making that big pitch at the right time. It's a simple solution. I feel like it's something that's identifiable. I know we talk about these things, and these guys make adjustments for the next day."

Pollock greeted Wood with a leadoff homer on the fifth pitch of the night, and he added his 12th home run of the season in the sixth. It was Pollock's second career multi-homer game, but the rest of the D-backs' lineup went 1-for-16 against Wood, who pitched six innings of two-run ball.

The Padres took a 2-1 lead in the bottom of the first with three consecutive singles and a sacrifice fly, and Wood capped a three-run rally in the third with a looping two-out, two-run knock into center field. The D-backs didn't seriously threaten after that, hitting into three double plays against Wood along the way.

"We've played these guys really well," said Padres first baseman Wil Myers, who notched a pair of hits. "They're one of the best teams we've played this season, but … I think we've really enjoyed playing as the 'spoiler' team so far."
MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Hey Hey, My Myers: Myers lined a 107-mpg missile off the left-field wall in the first. But he was held to an RBI single after a slow start out of the batter's box. Myers made up for that lost base in the third, when he shot an opposite-field chopper off the end of his bat. He sprinted immediately and reached second with a hustle double. It was Myers' seventh multi-hit game this month, after he recorded just eight in July and August combined.

"Getting out of the box has been a little bit of an issue this year," Myers said. "It's more of a habit now. It's not really a conscious thought to get out of the box slow. It's just one of those things where you've got to break that habit ... and think two out of the box." More >

Pitchers who (work the count and then) rake: Wood already has two homers as a Padre, but his most impressive at-bat may have come in the third. With the bases loaded and two outs, Wood fouled off three pitches before running the count full against D-backs starter Zack Godley. Then, he smacked a two-run single into center field, making him the first pitcher this season to notch an RBI with an at-bat of eight pitches or more.

"I know how frustrating that is," Wood said. "Just stay in the at-bat, do everything you can, especially with the bases loaded right there and a chance to help your own cause, help the team out."

SOUND SMART WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Manuel Margot, who went 2-for-3 with a walk, swiped his 15th bag in the Padres' two-run first. He's been successful on 10 of his last 11 stolen-base attempts, after starting the season being caught five times in his first 10 tries.

WHAT'S NEXT

D-backs: Robbie Ray will start the series finale against the Padres on Wednesday night at 6:10 p.m. MST. Ray is 5-0 with a 1.39 ERA and 55 strikeouts in five starts since returning from the disabled list (concussion). Ray has fanned at least 10 in each of his last four starts.

Padres: Rookie right-hander Dinelson Lamet has evolved into one of the Padres' biggest bright spots this season. He's posted 10 consecutive starts with three or fewer runs allowed. On Wednesday at 6:10 p.m. PT, he eyes some revenge against the D-backs, who tagged him for nine runs (seven earned) on June 6.
Jones set to partake in tailgate at Petco Park

Former Cy Young winner had recent bout with throat cancer

By AJ Cassavell / MLB.com

SAN DIEGO -- Few athletes are more integral within the San Diego sports community than legendary Padres left-hander Randy Jones.

From his National League Cy Young Award-winning season in 1976 to his recent bout with throat cancer, Jones has been inundated with love from San Diego fans.

The feeling is clearly mutual. And Jones -- along with a handful of other San Diego sports icons -- will get a chance to reciprocate that love this Saturday as part of the Celebrate San Diego Tailgate, hosted by the Padres.

"It was a magical relationship that we had when I was pitching, the way the fans supported me in '75 and '76, and even after that," Jones said. "I enjoy them. I still look forward to seeing a lot of those folks."

At Saturday's tailgate event, Jones will be joined by former Padres closer Trevor Hoffman, former San Diego State running back Marshall Faulk, San Diego native and NBA Hall of Famer Bill Walton, former San Diego State basketball coach Steve Fisher and former Chargers wide receiver Charlie Joiner.

The event will take place in the tailgate lot outside of Petco Park, and it will feature live music, food and games.

It's the second such event the Padres have held since the Chargers departed for Los Angeles earlier this year. In February, Petco Park played host to the "Celebrate San Diego Rally," which drew 12,000 fans and featured speakers from every local team.

Jones was battling cancer at the time and could not take part as a speaker. Still, his introduction prompted chants of "Ran-dy, Ran-dy," from fans. In early May, he was declared cancer-free. On Saturday, he'll be an active participant.
"The response I got that day was special," Jones said. "This one, again, we've got some great stars coming. We produced some great players in a lot of different sports. Let's not take that for granted. The Chargers may have left, but it's still a tight-knit sports community here."

As if to re-emphasize that point, the Padres will play San Diego State's football game against Air Force on the big screen in the tailgate lot. Gates will open at noon, with the tailgate party itself beginning at 2 p.m. before the Padres' 5:40 p.m. PT game against the Rockies.
Lamet to start final game vs. D-backs in '17

By Nathan Ruiz / MLB.com

Strikeouts will be common Wednesday at Petco Park, as Arizona's Robbie Ray faces San Diego's Dinelson Lamet in the final matchup between the D-backs and Padres this season. San Diego's batters have the second most strikeouts in the National League, while the D-backs rank third.

Arizona has a 4 1/2-game lead over Colorado for the first NL Wild Card spot with 10 games to play.

Ray's breakout season has contributed to Arizona's playoff positioning. The left-hander is 14-5 with a 2.74 ERA and 206 strikeouts in 151 innings. He has notched double-digit strikeouts in four straight starts, one of which was a 12-strikeout outing against San Diego on Sept. 10. Padres manager Andy Green was clear regarding what adjustment his team needs to make against Ray.

"We need to put the ball in play," Green said. "You have to force the fastball down. Swinging [at Ray's fastball] at the top of the zone, nobody's hitting that. That's not rocket science."

Ray's 12.3 strikeouts per nine innings rank second among all starters with at least 100 innings pitched. Lamet, who has a 2.44 ERA over his past 10 starts, is seventh at 11.1.

Three things to know about this game

• Opponents have chased nearly 28 percent of Ray's offerings below the bottom edge of the strike zone, according to Statcast's detailed zone metric, a rate that ranks behind only the Indians' Corey Kluber and Carlos Carrasco and the Dodgers' Alex Wood for the highest chase rate on non-borderline low pitches.

• Ray and Lamet both rely heavily on a fastball-slider combination. Nearly 80 percent of Ray's offerings this season have been a fastball or slider, while Lamet throws one of the two pitches 87.8 percent of the time.
Jose Pirela, the Padres' No. 3 hitter and regular left fielder, took swings Tuesday, as he works to recover from a left pinkie finger injury sustained during San Diego's recent road trip. If Pirela's pinkie finger does not experience enough improvement, the Padres will evaluate whether he needs to be shut down for the season, Green said.
Wood helps lift Padres over D'backs, 6-2

AP

SAN DIEGO -- Travis Wood came up with an outing nothing like his recent ones and he led the San Diego Padres to a 6-2 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Tuesday night. "Better location and keeping the ball down," Wood said.

Wood was nearly out of the rotation after two bad outings. In his last two starts, he allowed 16 runs (15 earned), 16 hits and two walks over 4 1/3 innings.

So when Arizona's A.J. Pollock led off the game with the first of his two homers, most thought Wood hadn't changed much. "But I felt really good," Wood said. "So I just locked it back in and got ready to attack."

He pitched six efficient innings and contributed two RBI as Arizona failed to gain ground in the NL wild-card race despite Pollock's two homers and a double. The loss reduced the Dodgers' magic number to clinch the NL West to two.

Wood (4-6), who surrendered a career-high nine runs in his last start, rebounded to win for the first time since Aug. 19. The southpaw was the benefactor of three double plays as he allowed two runs, three hits and two walks. He struck out three in raising his record at Petco Park this year to 4-1 in five starts.

"It's not letting them elevate balls by elevating them myself," Wood said. "That is something we focused on the last couple of weeks and I was able to put it together tonight."

San Diego scored five times in the first three innings as it beat the Diamondbacks for the second straight game to clinch the series. Arizona has still won 20 of its last 28 games since Aug. 21.

Three Padres relievers blanked the Diamondbacks over the final three innings. Brad Hand got the final three outs for his 20th save.

Zack Godley (8-8) got knocked around early but lasted until the fifth inning. He was charged with five runs and eight hits. He walked three, with six strikeouts. Godley had won three of his last four starts.

"I just thought we never got into a rhythm on the mound," Arizona manager Torey Lovullo said. "I know Zach was grinding away at things."

Carlos Asuaje's RBI single in the sixth pushed the Padres back in front 6-2.
Pollock produced his second career multi-homer game with another long fly in the sixth, his 12th on the year. He redirected Wood's 78 mph curveball into the left field seat's second deck, pulling the Diamondbacks within 5-2.

"You go through stretches where you feel good and good stuff happens, and then you feel good and good stuff doesn't happen," Pollock said. "And then the opposite when it doesn't go your way. But I would have loved to get the win there, obviously that's No. 1."

San Diego scored three times in the third for a 5-1 lead. The big blow was Wood smacking a two-run, two-out single to center on a full-count pitch. That followed Yangervis Solarte's run-scoring single, his second RBI of the game.

The Padres went ahead 2-1 in the first on Wil Myers' RBI single off the left-field wall and Solarte's sacrifice fly. In the inning's top half, Pollock led off with a homer. Myers lingered in the box when watching his line drive, which didn't go over well with manager Andy Green.

"He should have had two doubles tonight," Green said. "With his speed, when you hit the ball off the wall it's a double."

**TRAINER'S ROOM**

Diamondbacks: OF David Peralta (tight right quad) was out of the lineup but available to pinch-hit. ... C Chris Owings (fracture right middle finger) is making progress and could join the team for its final regular-season series against the Royals.

Padres: OF Jose Pirela (bruised left pinkie) was scheduled to take batting practice on Tuesday and then be re-evaluated. It's possible Pirela will be shut down for the remainder of the season.

**UP NEXT**

Diamondbacks: LHP Robbie Ray(14-5, 2.74 ERA) is 5-0 with a 1.39 ERA since returning from the disabled list on Aug. 14 after being struck in the head by a line drive. Ray has defeated the Padres in all three of his starts against them this season. Ray has had 10-plus strikeouts in four straight starts.

Padres: RHP Dinelson Lamet (7-7) has decreased his ERA in four straight starts but he hasn't won since Aug 15. The Padres have scored four runs in his five starts since then.
Padres look for sweep Wednesday vs Diamondbacks

FOX Sports

STATS

SAN DIEGO — The Padres face a simple task as they square off against the Arizona Diamondbacks’ Robbie Ray on Wednesday night, going for a three-game sweep.

“Put the ball in play,” San Diego manager Andy Green said.

Sounds so elementary. However, the Padres have faced Ray three times this season, and in each case, there hasn’t been much solid contact.

Make that any contact.

“We have to lay off his fastball at the top of zone,” Green said. “You are not going to hit him up there. You have to force him to throw it down.”

Ray (14-5, 2.74 ERA) has been sensational against the Padres, going 3-0 with a 1.33 ERA. Then again, he has been lights-out against a lot of teams this season.

At Phoenix on Sept. 10, Ray spun six innings of two-run ball with 12 strikeouts against San Diego. The time before that, he racked up 11 strikeouts when allowing one run in 6 2/3 innings. In a May encounter, the Padres waved the white flag after getting but two hits and striking out six times as Ray tossed 7 2/3 scoreless innings.

“This isn’t rocket science,” Green said. “You have to force his pitches down.”

Even so, Ray, who is 4-4 lifetime against San Diego, is on the rise against everybody in a breakout season.

“I don’t think it is necessarily just been against the Padres; he has had a really good year all the way around,” Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo said. “It’s because of his aggressive fastball, which he is just pressing into the zone. He’s attacking hitters and making them feel uncomfortable with that.”

There is more to Ray’s resurgence than a heater. Ray is riding a streak of four games with at least 10 strikeouts. Since exiting the disabled list on Aug. 14 after recovering from a concussion, he is 5-0 with a 1.39 ERA in five starts.

“It’s just quality secondary stuff,” Lovullo said. “He’s getting a ton of swing-and-misses with his breaking ball in the zone. A ton of swing-and-misses on breaking balls out of the zone. He has command of three pitches, and it’s been consistent since he returned from his injury.”
Ray’s season hit pause on July 28 when he was struck in the head by a 108 mph line drive hit by the St. Louis Cardinals’ Luke Volt. Ray missed a couple rotation turns and picked up where he left off.

“That is what stands out the most to me,” Lovullo said. “He had a pretty significant injury, a scary injury that some pitchers don’t come back from. But he worked hard. He stayed with it, and he shared how he was feeling and he came out the other side. He’s been pretty impressive since his return.”

Maybe even better as his arm took a breather.

“If you ask him, he might have a different answer, but I think the rest did him some good,” Lovullo said. “I feel like he used it as a couple of turns off, and he didn’t get too far away from it mentally. Physically, he just stepped right back into it, and fundamentally, he was exactly the same.”

Dinelson Lamet (7-7, 4.15 ERA) opposes Ray with the Padres hoping his ERA continues to go into reverse. The rookie right-hander has shaved it in four consecutive starts.

However, Lamet was amiss when facing the Diamondbacks earlier this year. He absorbed the loss in his only career outing against them on June 6 in Phoenix. He walked five batters and gave up five hits and nine runs (seven earned) in three innings.

“He really struggled with his command of the fastball,” Green said. “That might have been his roughest outing of the year. His stuff will play against them; it will play against anybody. But he has to command his fastball.”

Despite the defeat Tuesday, the Diamondbacks (87-65) didn’t lose ground in the National League wild-card race. They still lead the Colorado Rockies by 4 1/2 games for the first wild card.

San Diego (68-83) owns a three-game winning streak.
Padres On Deck: Baseball America ranks Nix’s 11 K shutout among MiLB Best in ‘17

By Justin Lafferty

Pitcher Jacob Nix’s ascent through the system has been one of the most impressive Padres On Deck storylines this season.

Nix, the Padres’ №15 prospect, started the season at Advanced-A Lake Elsinore and ended it with a clutch win for AAA El Paso in the Pacific Coast League Finals.

*Baseball America* has taken notice of the 21-year-old righthander’s performance. The publication cited a dominating game Nix pitched for Lake Elsinore on June 28 as one of the top 10 best by a minor league pitcher this year.

Going by the Bill James Game Score metric, Nix’s performance—a complete game shutout where gave up two hits, fanned 11 and walked none—against the Dodgers’ Rancho Cucamonga squad was the 6th best of the year. Nix’s impressive outing merited a game score of 94.

“A two-hit shutout might not seem as impressive as a no-hitter, but consider the degree of difficulty faced by Nix, who began the year sidelined by a groin injury,” wrote *Baseball America*’s Matt Eddy. “First, he had to contend with the hitter-friendly conditions of the California League, and on top of that, the opposing Rancho Cucamonga lineup featured Dodgers prospects *Yusniel Diaz* and *D.J. Peters*, the league MVP who went 1-for-3 with a double.”

A third-round draft pick out of high school by the Padres in 2015, Nix was the Padres’ №6 prospect entering the year. After debutting with the Arizona League Padres in 2015 as a 19-year-old, Nix fanned 90 batters in 105.1 innings with Low-A Fort Wayne.

Nix is known for his upper-90s fastball, paired with an impressive curveball and changeup.