<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Padres to add right-field video board to Petco Park</td>
<td>SD Union Tribune</td>
<td>Lin</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sources: Padres have discussed free agent Eric Hosmer</td>
<td>SD Union Tribune</td>
<td>Lin</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuel Margot sixth in NL Rookie of Year voting</td>
<td>SD Union Tribune</td>
<td>Sanders</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dodgers, Padres to play series in Mexico</td>
<td>MLB.com</td>
<td>Cassavell</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tatis looking like Padres' SS in near future</td>
<td>MLB.com</td>
<td>Cassavell</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remembering the 1st time MLB came to Mexico</td>
<td>MLB.com</td>
<td>Mearns</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary Homeless Shelters to go up in Three San Diego Locations</td>
<td>NBC 7</td>
<td>Rodriguez</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Padres Again Carrying MLB’s Flag to Mexico Next May 4–6</td>
<td>FriarWire</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Padres: AFL Wrapping Up, but Padres Could Be in Saturday Title Game</td>
<td>FriarWire</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margot Shines Among Rookie Stars</td>
<td>FriarWire</td>
<td>Lafferty</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Padres On Deck: Cuban Oña Leads the List of Right Field Prospects</td>
<td>FriarWire</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Padres to add right-field video board to Petco Park

Dennis Lin

Petco Park attendees will notice a conspicuous addition to the venue next season.

Construction on a right-field video board could begin by early December, Padres Executive Chairman Ron Fowler said Monday. The new screen will be roughly the same size as the old video board in left field, or about a fifth of the size of the current left-field board.

“I think the fans who have difficulty looking up at the left-field scoreboard will be pleased with what we’re doing,” Fowler told the Union-Tribune. “One of the things we found in our study is over 20 percent of people, when the stadium is full, really have difficulty seeing the board in left field, so we felt we had to do something about it in terms of the fan experience.”

The new video board will sit above the seats in right field, occupying about two-thirds of the space currently belonging to three billboards. It will display the same information as the larger left-field video board, which debuted in 2015. The latest project, which will be ready before the 2018 season opener, will cost more than $2 million.

Meanwhile, the Padres have not yet determined the exact dimensions of the soon-to-be-expanded netting behind home plate. The team is scheduled to meet with design firm Populous later this month to decide whether the new netting will stop at the far end of each dugout, or extend beyond that.

The Padres and other teams announced plans to increase netting in September after a line drive struck a young fan at Yankee Stadium.

“We’re looking at options to take it a bit further out, but that decision hasn’t been made,” Fowler said. “One of the issues we’re going look at is the potential necessity for poles to go up if we did that, and we don’t want vertical structures that will create view problems.”
“Our plan is to take it as far as possible without impacting the view of the fans. We think, frankly, with the bigger players and pitchers throwing faster and balls coming off bats faster, no matter where you are, your ability to react is diminished. To the extent we can protect the fans, we’re looking at what our options are.”

Padres, Dodgers set for Mexico

The Padres’ May 4-6 series against the Los Angeles Dodgers in Monterrey, Mexico, was officially announced Monday. The three games will serve as home dates for the Padres, replacing a previously scheduled series at Petco Park.

It will be the third-ever regular-season series in Monterrey. Come next season, the Padres will have been a part of all three visits; San Diego also played at Estadio de Beisbol Monterrey in 1996 and 1999.

Major league teams most recently visited Mexico in March 2016, when the Padres and Houston Astros met for two exhibition games in Mexico City.

“I think it’s important for Major League Baseball and the Padres to be more international, and obviously, for us, international is about 15 miles from Petco,” Fowler said. “Being able to play in Mexico is important, and to be able to play the Dodgers in Mexico is important also. So we look forward to it.”

Padres season ticket holders will be offered refunds for the Monterrey series, with full-season packages going from 81 games to 78 games. Fowler said season ticket holders will be presented with a variety of options and ticket packages.

Shooting for .500?

In a recent interview on The Mighty 1090, Fowler said he was “personally shooting for” a .500 record in 2018, raising some interest about the state of the organization’s rebuild. Outperforming expectations, the Padres went 71-91 last season. Team officials do not anticipate a playoff push until 2019, at the earliest.
Franchises that have successfully rebuilt themselves did not always show linear improvement before reaching the postseason. Those cases include the Minnesota Twins, who went from 59 wins in 2016 to a wild-card berth in 2017.

Fowler, the owner said, is basing his goal on the expectation that a young team continues to progress, both in terms of experience and talent arriving at the major league level.

“If we show significant improvement in terms of our defense, not striking out, getting on base more … I would think that if we did a number of things better in ‘18 than ‘17 our record should demonstrate that,” Fowler told the Union-Tribune. “But I also know that teams don’t improve on a linear basis. Sometimes it goes from zero to 60 rather quickly.

“I would like to see us play .500 baseball in ‘18. I’m hoping we can do that while showing off some more young talent that we think will be with this team for a long period of time.”
Sources: Padres have discussed free agent Eric Hosmer

Dennis Lin

The Padres, who hope to vie for a postseason berth in the near future, have discussed the possibility of pursuing top free-agent first baseman Eric Hosmer, sources told the Union-Tribune.

San Diego’s interest, which was first reported by Ken Rosenthal of The Athletic, comes as a surprise, though the Padres are preparing for a significant payroll hike in 2019, if not next year. In theory, Hosmer, 28, will remain in his prime when the Padres’ competitive window opens. And while the organization should begin reaping the benefits of a loaded farm system in 2018, outside help certainly will be needed to make a playoff run within the next few seasons.

Hosmer, who hit .318 with an .882 on-base-plus-slugging percentage last season for Kansas City, also would address a need for left-handed offense, but the Padres are a long shot to land, or perhaps even seriously pursue, the 2016 All-Star. San Diego already has a first baseman under long-term contract in Wil Myers, and one who has undergone multiple position changes. Additionally, ownership could deem it wiser to reserve the bulk of its money for next offseason, rather than join a bidding war that will include clubs with more resources. (The largest contract in franchise history is the $83 million extension Myers signed in January, and Hosmer is expected to receive a nine-figure deal.)

The Padres’ interest in Hosmer does illustrate the vast array of scenarios and ideas discussed by virtually every franchise, even a rebuilding one, early in an offseason. While team officials have termed 2018 another “developmental” year, the Padres wish to see improvement from a roster that went 71-91 in 2017. That desire, combined with a current lack of payroll commitments, means the Padres could make an unexpected move or two this winter.

Hosmer, a client of super-agent Scott Boras, is the youngest notable position player available in free agency. With the exception of Bryce Harper and Manny Machado, he also is younger than the best hitters scheduled to become free agents after 2018.
On a more obvious front, the Padres will explore both free agency and trades in their continued attempts to fill a hole at shortstop. Zack Cozart and Alcides Escobar are the top options on the open market, but the front office also will consider acquiring a younger, under-control shortstop. Such a player could shift to a different role and provide a contingency plan when heralded prospect Fernando Tatis Jr. reaches the majors.
Manuel Margot sixth in NL Rookie of Year voting

Jeff Sanders

By virtue of the opportunity to play every day from start to finish, the Padres opened 2017 with two legitimate contenders for an NL Rookie of the Year award: Manuel Margot and Hunter Renfroe.

By season’s end, however, Cody Bellinger’s 39 homers ensured that award was heading to a Dodger for the 18th time, the most of any team. Meantime, Renfroe’s all-or-nothing approach warranted an August demotion while a month-long stay on the disabled list (knee) limited Margot to 126 games in his first full year in the majors.

His resume over that stretch – a .721 OPS, 13 homers, 39 RBIs and 17 steals – earned Margot a sixth-place showing in NL Rookie of the Year balloting, as announced Monday by the Baseball Writers Association of America.

Bellinger ran away with all 30 first-place votes (just like teammate Corey Seager last year) en route to 150 points. The Cardinals’ Paul DeJong (56), the Pirates’ Josh Bell (32), the Phillies’ Rhys Hoskins (12) and the Rockies’ German Marquez (10) rounded out the top-five placers, while Margot swiped 12 of his 17 bases and penned a .265/.317/.421 batting line in 79 games after returning from injury to earn one second- and two third-place votes.

(Full disclosure: One of Margot’s third-place votes emanated from this space, while ESPN’s Keith Law gave him a second-place vote. View all 30 BBWAA ballots here).

An uninterrupted campaign could have moved Margot a few rungs up the ladder, as his Margot’s 5.2 ultimate zone rating was the sixth-best among all center fielders despite missing a month of the season. His 13 home runs were more than he’d ever hit in the minors, suggesting that Margot may yet hit for more power as settles into his career.

As it stands now, Margot’s rookie campaign is the 10th-best for a Padres position player in the Petco Park era, according to Fangraphs.com’s version of WAR.

INTRODUCTIONS
Using WAR to look at the top-10 rookie campaigns in the Petco Park era and how the player fared the following season.

- 1st | 2nd
- 3.2 | 1.6 | SS Khalil Greene (2004)
- 2.5 | 0.1 | 2B Ryan Schimpf (2016)
- 2.4 | 0.0 | 2B Jedd Gyorko (2013)
- 2.4 | 0.6 | C Yasmani Grandal (2012)
- 2.3 | -0.9 | 2B Josh Barfield (2006)
- 2.2 | 2.2 | 3B Kevin Kouzmanoff (2007)
- 2.1 | -0.1 | OF Travis Jankowski (2016)
- 2.1 | 1.0 | INF Jesus Guzman (2011)
- 2.0 | 0.1 | INF Cory Spangenberg (2015)
- 1.9 | ??? | CF Manuel Margot (2017)

Source: Fangraphs.com

Of that group, only Kouzmanoff altogether avoided a sophomore slump.

Greene was still productive in Year 2, while Schimpf (demoted), Gyorko, Grandal (suspension) and Barfield flatlined. Injuries forced Spangenberg and Jankowski to miss most of their sophomore seasons.

What Margot does in his second full season could say quite a bit about the Padres’ push to contend by 2019.
Dodgers, Padres to play series in Mexico

Three-game set in Monterrey scheduled for May 4-6

By AJ Cassavell

ORLANDO, Fla. -- For the first time in 19 years, Major League Baseball is returning to Mexico.

The Padres and Dodgers will play a three-game regular-season series this coming May in Monterrey, MLB announced on Monday. The games, which will take place May 4-6 at Estadio Monterrey, mark the first regular-season contests in Mexico since 1999.

San Diego is set for its third regular-season trip south of the border, while Los Angeles will be making its first. In 1996, the Padres and Mets played three games in Monterrey, the first series to be played in Mexico. Three years later, the Padres and Rockies opened the season there.

"As a team with a binational fan base and reach that extends into Baja California and throughout Mexico, we are excited to once again play regular-season games in Monterrey and help grow the popularity of our great game," said Padres chief operating officer Erik Greupner in a statement. "Baseball fans in Mexico are passionate about the game and we look forward to deepening our connection with them."

The announcement is the latest in MLB's burgeoning efforts to bring big league baseball to all parts of the globe. It's the first of six series to be played in Mexico over the next six seasons, with other plans for games in Asia and Great Britain, according to the Los Angeles Times.

The Dodgers played a pair of exhibition games in Monterrey in 1991 but have only made one regular-season trip outside the United States and Canada. They opened the 2014 season with a two-game set against Arizona in Sydney, Australia.

"The Dodgers are excited and extremely proud to be returning to Mexico," said Stan Kasten, Dodgers president and CEO. "The Dodgers have always been at the forefront of growing the
game of baseball internationally, and this trip reinforces this commitment, while at the same time giving our many fans in Mexico a chance to see us compete."

The Padres' last trip to Mexico came in March 2016 with two Spring Training games against the Astros in Mexico City.

Both organizations boast a number of players with Mexican roots, with Los Angeles' Adrian Gonzalez the most notable of the bunch.

"I'm extremely excited about returning home to Mexico to play a series against my former team, the Padres," said Gonzalez, who was born in San Diego and raised in Tijuana, Mexico. "This series will be memorable for all involved, as we visit Monterrey to repay the baseball fans in Mexico for their never-ending support of the game we all love."

Dodgers left-hander Julio Urias, a Culiacan native, likely won't be recovered from shoulder surgery by May. Meanwhile, No. 2 prospect Alex Verdugo is of Mexican descent and played for Team Mexico in the 2017 World Baseball Classic. He debuted in September and will compete for a roster spot this spring.

For the Padres, third baseman Christian Villanueva -- a fringe roster candidate -- is the only Mexican-born player on the 40-man roster. But infielder Luis Urias, the club's No. 3 prospect, is a native of Magdalena de Kino. It's a long shot that he'll be on the big league roster by May.

The three-game set replaces a series that was originally scheduled for Petco Park during the same dates. San Diego will be the home team in all three games. "We look forward to playing in Mexico in front of some of the most passionate and knowledgeable baseball fans in the world," Padres first baseman Wil Myers said. "Both teams have a strong following south of the border and we anticipate a very warm and spirited reception when we visit Monterrey."
ORLANDO, Fla. -- Fernando Tatis Jr.'s remarkable 2017 campaign is officially over. His impact on the Padres' offseason plans is not.

Tatis, ranked as the club's No. 4 prospect by MLBPipeline.com, put forth a brilliant age 18 season between Class A Fort Wayne and Double-A San Antonio. After 17 games in the Dominican Winter League, the Padres opted to shut Tatis down for the year, believing his 665 plate appearances to be plenty.

Tatis' statement season could very well have an impact on the Padres' preparation for 2018. With a vacancy at shortstop, general manager A.J. Preller must add via trade or free agency this offseason. In doing so, Tatis' presence will loom large. If, indeed, he's the organization's shortstop of the future, it's less likely the Padres look for a long-term solution.

"The positive for us, when you talk about shortstop at the big league level, is we have guys in the system who are starting to get closer and closer, guys playing well at high levels," Preller said on Monday at the General Managers Meetings in Orlando, Fla. "Tatis, his performance [this year] was excellent. Tatis, Javier Guerra, Luis Urias, they're some middle-infield candidates for us who are part of our discussion now, as far as acquiring somebody versus letting guys come up through the system."

Each of the past three offseasons, the Padres have signed one-year stopgap options at shortstop -- Clint Barmes in 2015, Alexei Ramirez in '16 and Erick Aybar in '17. Each of the past three offseasons, those moves underwhelmed, given the organization's need for a long-term answer.

With Tatis set to make an impact, perhaps as early as 2019, that need may no longer be there. Essentially, his presence could tilt the Padres toward a short-term option like Aybar or Alcides Escobar, instead of sacrificing prospects in a trade or signing former Reds shortstop Zack Cozart to a multiyear deal.
Tatis batted .281/.390/.520 at Fort Wayne, while setting a TinCaps record with 21 homers this year. He received a late-season promotion to San Antonio, where he batted .255 before coming on strong with a 7-for-20 showing in the postseason. Then, in the Dominican Winter League, Tatis was selected with the top pick by Estrellas de Oriente, and he batted .246/.358/.386 in 17 games.

"For an 18-year-old player to do what he did in the Midwest League, it was impressive," Preller said. "I think the biggest thing for him was to be able to lead his team. His team won. That's an indicator of success, to be as young as he was in the league and be the leading piece on that team."

Chalk Tatis' 2017 season up as a massive success in the eyes of the Padres' front office.

"I think clearly, overall, he was as good as could be expected," Preller said. "The biggest thing now is to go out and get better. Go out and top that next year. That's going to be our challenge to him going into the offseason."

Margot sixth in ROY voting

Center fielder Manuel Margot finished sixth in National League Rookie of the Year Award voting on Monday night, garnering a second-place vote and a pair of third-place votes.

Once the club's top prospect, Margot batted .263/.313/.409 in his first full big league campaign, while playing excellent defense in center field. Margot finished +8 in Defensive Runs Saved, third among NL center fielders.

The Dodgers' Cody Bellinger won the award, with the Cardinals' Paul DeJong and Pirates' Josh Bell rounding out the top three.

Hand to spare?

Preller said he's fielded phone calls on coveted lefty reliever Brad Hand. In fact, Preller has "had a lot of teams checking in on a lot of our guys." None of those discussions mean a deal is imminent.
"We'll get to know who's more serious about certain things this week, and, I think, leading up to the Winter Meetings," Preller said.
Remembering the first time that Major League Baseball came to Mexico

By Andrew Mearns

On Monday, Major League Baseball announced that for the first time since 1999, big league baseball would be returning to Mexico. The Dodgers and Padres will play a three-game series in Monterrey from May 4-6.

While it will be the Dodgers' first foray into professional games in Mexico, the Padres have been involved every time, including opening the 1999 season vs. the Rockies. MLB first came to Mexico on Aug. 16, 1996, when the Padres squared off against the Mets at the very same place -- Estadio Monterrey, in the shadows of the iconic Cerro de la Silla mountain range:

It didn't hurt that the Padres had one of Mexico's greatest ambassadors to the game taking the mound for them that day in Fernando Valenzuela. The former Dodger great had resurfaced in San Diego 15 years after "Fernandomania" spread across baseball, as he won both the NL Rookie of the Year and Cy Young Award en route to the 1981 World Series title.

Valenzuela had done so much to increase baseball's popularity in Mexico that he was even asked to throw the first pitch ... before a game he was starting.

Fernando obliged:

The crowd went wild, and the Padres were ready to play ball. "With Fernando pitching we're going to feel like the home team," manager Bruce Bochy had said to the New York Times.

After a scoreless first from Fernando, the Padres came out swinging. Tony Gwynn worked a leadoff walk against Mets starter Robert Person, and a couple batters later, Steve Finley connected:

Just like that, the Padres had a 2-0 lead, courtesy of the first home run ever hit in Mexico.
As the day went on, the Padres' offensive barrage was relentless. Finley's second at-bat led to an RBI double, and catcher John Flaherty brought two more runs home with a two-bagger of his own. In the fifth, the Padres knocked Person out of the game when Flaherty and Ken Caminiti launched homers to make it 9-0.

Meanwhile, Valenzuela was dealing, shutting the Mets out through six innings. In the home half of the sixth, Greg Vaughn crushed the capping blow:

The eventual NL West champions were on a roll, and against future Mariners GM Jerry Dipoto, they tacked on two more runs to make it a ludicrous 15-0.

Little did they know that they would need a lot of those runs. The Mets rallied for three in the seventh and they ended Valenzuela's night on an RBI single by Rey Ordonez. Then, in the ninth, they exploded against Dustin Hermanson and Sean Bergman for seven runs, a rally that included an RBI double by Chris Jones, a surprising solo shot from Andy Tomberlin and a two-out hit from Edgardo Alfonzo that suddenly made the score 15-10.

Ordonez singled again to bring Jones to the plate with a chance to make it 15-13, so Bochy called on rookie Dario Veras to find some way to stop the damage. The 23-year-old came through, jumping ahead of Jones, 0-2, before retiring him on a lineout to Chris Gwynn in right field.

The dust had settled and the Padres won the first game in Mexico, 15-10. Fittingly, the winning pitcher was none other than Mexican hero Fernando Valenzuela.
Temporary Homeless Shelters to go up in Three San Diego Locations

By Gaby Rodriguez

Three temporary shelters to house the homeless community and help them get back up on their feet are going up across the city of San Diego—in Midway, Barrio Logan and East Village.

The locations were revealed by the San Diego Padres managing director Peter Seidler on Monday.

Seidler has donated $2 million of his own money towards the project and is now partnering up with the non-profit Lucky Duck Foundation, which will now dedicate all of its funds to the homeless crisis.

"Apartments, converted motels—there's a whole bunch of creative concepts that are being studied or worked on, not just here but in other cities, tiny houses or things like that," Seidler said.

Each tent will be run by local non-profits, who will provide transitional services like health care, counseling, and drug rehab programs.

But while everyone hopes to find a solution to the homeless crisis in San Diego, not everyone is happy the tents are opening in their neighborhood.

Jimmy Roberts, who told NBC 7 he had been homeless, said he understands the need for the shelters. He spent 6 years on the streets and 12 years waiting for affordable housing.

Roberts said that for some nearby residents, the location of one of the shelters was a little too close to a school.
"I don't know what they are going to put in there...they definitely haven’t made a decision yet," Roberts said. "But last time they were here, they said it was going to be for families and it turned out to be everybody who was homeless and it made a lot of parents at the school very upset."

But Councilmember David Alvarez said the cost of taking care of these individuals is too high.

The locations are the following:

- 2801 Sports Area Boulevard in Midway
- 16th Street and Newton Avenue in Barrio Logan
- 1402 Commercial Street near the trolley station in the East Village

The tents could open by the end of November.

The Housing Authority and San Diego City Council will vote on the agreement for operations and services at the shelters on Tuesday.
No team has planted the flag of Major League Baseball in more foreign lands over the past 15 seasons than the San Diego Padres.

It was announced Monday that the Padres will be playing a three-game series against National League champion Los Angeles Dodgers in Monterrey, Mexico, next May 4–6.

This will be the Padres’ fourth trip to the heart of Mexico since 1996 . . . and their third trip to Monterrey.

The Padres also visited China in 2008 and participated in the first Major League series in Hawaii against the St. Louis Cardinals in 1997. Even when Ray Kroc owned the club, the Padres would make an annual visit to Nogales, Mexico, during their spring training trip to Tucson.

“I think we qualify as ambassadors,” the late Hall of Famer Tony Gwynn said after the Padres returned from their first trip to Monterrey to play a three-game series against the Mets from Aug. 16–18, 1996.

Less than three years later, the Padres opened the season against the Colorado Rockies on April 4, 1999, in Monterrey. And in March of 2016, the Padres and Astros played a spring training series in Mexico City.

The Padres, of course, have maintained close ties with Mexico, most notably Tijuana and Baja California, since the club entered the National League in 1969. Over the years, a Major League high 25 Mexican citizens have played with the Padres.

“Mexican baseball fans keep track of that number,” Eduardo Ortega, the Spanish-language voice of the Padres said Monday as he discussed the Padres relationship with their neighbors to the south.
“They celebrated last September when Christian Villanueva joined the Padres,” Ortega continued. “And they await the arrival of Luis Urias in San Diego. Fans in Mexico know that the Padres care about Mexico. They know that Alfredo Harp Helu owns part of the Padres.

“And this trip is a great time to plant the seed with the next generation.”

Of course, the Dodgers are also extremely popular in Mexico. Former Dodgers pitcher Fernando Valenzuela ranks as the most popular Major Leaguer ever from Mexico.

Ironically, it was Valenzuela who won the first game the Padres ever played in Mexico . . . as a Padre.

That was on Aug. 16, 1996, as the Padres and Mets played in the first regular-season series outside of the United States and Canada.

The game that everyone remembers from that historic series was the “Snickers Game” in the Aug. 18 rubber match.

Dehydrated and suffering from food poisoning, Ken Caminiti received two liters of fluid before the finale in Monterrey—then ate a Snickers candy bar just before taking the field. The third baseman then homered in his first two at-bats to lead the Padres to an 8–0 win.

Bouyed by the success of the first regular-season series in Mexico City, Major League Baseball asked the Padres to play a two-game “Paradise” series against the Cardinals at Aloha Stadium in Hawaii April 19–20, 1997—opening another frontier.

On April 4, 1999, the Padres and Rockies played the first “International Opening Day” game in Monterrey. The Rockies won 8–2.

At that time, Major League Baseball had played six games outside North America. And the Padres were participants in all six.

Then came the 2008 spring training trip to China—the Padres won the second of two games against the Dodgers after the first ended in a tie. Those games were played at Wukesong Baseball Stadium in Beijing, which hosted baseball for the 2008 Olympic Games. During the trip, the Padres and Dodgers visited the Great Wall of China and Padres players hosted a clinic at the Fengtai School.
“We were aware the entire time that we were making history,” said outfielder Scott Hairston, who had a two-run double in the Padres’ victory in China. Who was credited with the win? Josh Geer.

And the Padres’ most recent trip was the two-game 2016 exhibition series against Houston at Fray Nano in Mexico City.
Winter Padres: AFL Wrapping Up, but Padres Could Be in Saturday Title Game

Nine Padres prospects on AFL West-leading Peoria

By Bill Center

The Arizona Fall League ends its regular season Thursday afternoon.

But the nine Padres playing for the Peoria Javelinas might have a final game to play Saturday.

Peoria leads the AFL West division by three games with three to play entering Tuesday’s play and appear headed to Saturday’s championship game.

Leading Padres on Peoria are 20-year-old, mid-season All-Stars Luis Urías and Josh Naylor and relief pitchers Andres Munoz, David Bednar and T.J. Weir.

Urías, who played shortstop and homered in the All-Star Game, is hitting .319 with a .452 on-base percentage. He has four doubles and two triples for a .489 slugging percentage and a .941 OPS. Urías ranks second in the AFL in on-base percentage and seventh in OPS. He has drawn 13 walks to five strikeouts.

First baseman Naylor is hitting .304 with six doubles and three homers for 14 RBIs in 19 games. He has a .831 OPS. He is tied for seventh in the AFL in RBIs and tied for eighth in homers.

Shortstop Javier Guerra (.250) and right fielder Franmil Reyes (.167 with a homer and four RBIs in eight games) also are playing for Peoria while right-hander Walker Lockett (1–1, 6.63 earned run average) has been in the Javelinas rotation and left-hander Jerry Keel (4.63 ERA) has both relieved and started.

Munoz, 18, whose fastball regularly touches 100 mph, has a 1.17 ERA in eight Arizona Fall League appearances. He has 10 strikeouts in 7 2/3 innings while allowing four hits and two walks. Bednar has a 1.13 ERA in seven appearances covering eight innings (one hit in 25 opposition at-bats and no walks allowed with seven strikeouts). Weir has a 1.59 ERA.

In Mexico, infielder Fernando Perez will play in the Mexico Pacific Coast League All-Star Game next week while also representing Hermosillo in the Home Run Derby. Perez, 24, a
product of Otay Ranch High, is hitting .340 with Hermosillo with a .380 on-base percentage and a .638 slugging percentage for a 1.018 OPS.

Perez is tied for second in the MPL with six homers. He has 17 RBIs and 15 runs scored in 24 games. Perez leads the MPL in slugging percentage (six doubles and two triples plus the six homers) and ranks third in OPS and seventh in batting average.

Right-hander Eric Yardley, 27, continues to lead the Dominican Republic Winter League in appearances. Yardley has pitched in 15 games, allowing two runs (one earned) on 10 hits and four walks with seven strikeouts in 15 2/3 innings for a 0.57 ERA and a 0.89 WHIP (hits and walks divided by innings pitched).

Shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr., center fielder Franchy Cordero and catcher Luis Torrens are also turning in notable performances in winter ball.

Cordero, 23, who is ranked the Padres’ №12 prospect by MLB Pipeline, is hitting .287 with a .351 on-base percentage and a .741 OPS in the Dominican Republic. Cordero is 4-for-11 during a three-game hitting streak with his first homer of the winter league season.

Torrens, 21, who spent the 2017 with the Padres as a Rule 5 draft pick, is hitting .277 in Venezuela and has caught 24 of Magallanes’ 29 games.

Tatis Jr., 18, was 3-for-10 last week in the Dominican Republic. The youngest player in the league, Tatis is hitting .246 with a .358 on-base percentage with nine walks against only eight strikeouts.
Margot Shines Among Rookie Stars
MLB’s Cut4 gives Padres CF some love

By Justin Lafferty

Manuel Margot made dozens of highlight-reel worthy catches for the Padres last season, patrolling center field with top-flight speed in his rookie season.

His efforts in his first full big league season haven’t gone unnoticed. MLB’s Cut4 named Margot as the best rookie centerfielder in baseball.

Cut4 went down the lineup, naming the best rookie at each position. Margot was Michael Clair’s selection in center, with mashers Rhys Hoskins of the Phillies and Aaron Judge of the Yankees at the corner outfield spots.

Margot impressed Clair both with his glove and his bat. The rookie from the Dominican Republic was a steady force at the top of the order for the Padres, batting .263 with a career-best 13 home runs.

“The Padres’ future looks very, very bright, and it’s thanks to the emergence of players like Margot. While the strikeouts are a bit concerning, Margot set a career-high in home runs in a season and his wheels helped him run down almost anything in Petco Park’s spacious center field.”
Padres On Deck: Cuban Oña Leads the List of Right Field Prospects

Suwinski, Reyes also interesting candidates

By Bill Center

Midway through last season, the future of right field for the Padres seemed to be set.

Twenty-five-year-old Hunter Renfroe seemed to be entrenched. Then the Padres decided the rookie slugger needed to work on some parts of his game—such as pitch selection, getting on base and defense—and dispatched Renfroe to Triple-A El Paso.

Renfroe returned to finish the season with the Padres and set the franchise record for homers by a rookie, his total of 26 eclipsing the 24 that first baseman Nate Colbert hit with the original Padres in 1969.

Renfroe finished the season with a .231 average and a .284 on-base percentage. He also had 25 doubles, a triple, 56 RBIs and 51 runs scored. But he struck out 140 times while drawing only 27 walks in 475 plate appearances.

However, Renfroe’s grip on right field appears firm at the moment.

The top right field prospect in the Padres system right now is 20-year-old Jorge Oña. The 6-foot-3, 220-pound Cuban, who is ranked the Padres’ №11 prospect by MLB Pipeline, spent his first season in the United States at Single-A Fort Wayne.

But he is the only right field prospect ranked among the Padres’ top-30 prospects. The next-highest right field prospects would appear to be Franmil Reyes and Jack Suwinski.

Reyes, 22, who played 135 games at Double-A San Antonio in 2017, is the Padres’ most advanced right field prospect. The Padres had minor league veterans making most of the starts in right this season at El Paso.

Reyes, a 2011 signing out of the Dominican Republic, hit .258 for the Missions with 27 doubles, a triple and 25 homers for 102 RBIs and 79 runs scored. He also had a .322 on-base
percentage with a .464 slugging percentage for a .785 OPS. He led the Texas League in homers and led San Antonio in doubles, homers, RBIs and runs scored.

Ona and Suwinski both played for Fort Wayne this season.

Ona hit .277 in 107 games with 18 doubles, a triple and 11 home runs. He had a .351 on-base percentage and a .405 slugging percentage for a .755 OPS.

Suwinski, 19, was the Padres’ 15th-round pick in the 2016 draft. The 6-foot-2, 200-pound, left-handed hitter batted .227 in 125 games for the TinCaps this year with 21 doubles, four triples and nine homers. He draw 55 walks for a .319 OPS.