

MLB BROADCAST RESEARCH PACKET

SDP@ARI

San Diego Padres at Arizona Diamondbacks

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Venue: Chase Field

Probable starters: Casey Mize (SDP) vs Mitch Bratt (ARI)

All 2026 season stats are through games completed before tonight's slate.

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Game Thesis

This is a wild-card game in early August, with San Diego trailing Arizona by one game in the NL wild-card chase. The starting-pitching contrast is the story: Casey Mize debuts for the Padres on a career-best season – 2.70 ERA, 24.9% K, 5.6% BB, with a 34.5%-whiff splitter – against a rookie lefty in Mitch Bratt, who has been barreled all year (.345 BA/.586 SLG against his four-seam) and carries a 6.68 BB/9. It's the division's best-arm acquisition against a homegrown arm trying to find his command at the big-league level.

The bullpens are the separator: San Diego's 3.71 ERA pen (6th best MLB) with a rested Mason Miller (28-for-29 saves) against Arizona's 4.15 unit that lives on control (2nd-best BB/9) but a 15.9% barrel rate from closer Paul Sewald. The Padres hit .290 in the second half (#1 MLB), while Arizona wins with two-strike discipline – #1 in MLB at .184 in 0-2 counts.

- **Rookie-Lefty Crater:** Bratt's left-handed platoon split is a .345 AVG / 1.091 OPS in 30 PA against LHB – and San Diego stacks lefty/switch bats (Merrill, Cronenworth, Sheets, Song, Rengifo) in the top two-thirds of the order.
- **Mize's Two-Strike Game:** The right-hander throws 66.0% first-pitch strikes and flips to his splitter 45% on 0-2, against an Arizona order that is #1 in MLB at .184 in 0-2 counts (392 AB) – the league's two-strike stalwart vs. the league's two-strike weapon.
- **The Rested Ninth:** Mason Miller hasn't pitched since Aug. 1 (30 pitches), owns a 0.76 ERA and 16.70 K/9 (2nd best MLB), and has a 0.00 ERA with a 0.35 WHIP over his last five appearances.
- **Hard-Contact Collision:** Machado carries a 1.049 OPS vs four-seamers (142 PA) and France a 1.026 OPS vs sliders (38 PA) – both against a rookie whose fastball has been punished all season.
- **Park + Left-Handed Pen Edge:** Yuki Matsui is #1 in MLB in opponent AVG in retractable-roof parks (.074), a Chase Field edge for the Padres' lefty bridge.

Core Broadcast Question

Mize throws first-pitch strikes at a 66.0% clip and goes to his splitter with two strikes – how does the league's best 0-2-count hitting team (Arizona, .184 AVG) answer?

All Things to Watch

- **Mize's Splitter as the Putaway:** The splitter (23.7% usage, 87.9 mph) carries a 34.5% whiff rate and .292 SLG against; with two strikes he throws it 45% on 0-2 – the pitch is his two-strike weapon against both hands.
- **Bratt's Punished Four-Seam:** The rookie's 38.1%-usage four-seamer (91.6 mph, 141 pitches) has allowed a .345 BA / .586 SLG with a 9.9% whiff rate; it's the pitch batters are squaring up all season.
- **Sinker Liability vs. Merrill:** Bratt's sinker (10.0% usage, 91.2 mph) has allowed a .900 SLG across 37 pitches with zero whiffs – Jackson Merrill owns a 1.119 OPS vs sinkers league-wide (61 PA).
- **Machado vs. the Heater:** Manny Machado carries a 1.049 OPS vs four-seam fastballs league-wide (142 PA) with a 10.8% barrel rate, while Nolan Arenado sits at 1.094 vs sinkers (75 PA) and .959 vs four-seams (96 PA).
- **France's Slider Edge:** Ty France has a 1.026 OPS vs sliders (38 PA) and 11.0% barrels, against Bratt's slider (12.4% usage) which has a 28.6% whiff – the loudest contact tool in the Padres' order.
- **The Other Side of the Board:** Freddy Fermin (.304 OPS vs sliders, 28 PA) and Jake Cronenworth (.546 vs sinkers, 41 PA) are the reverse edges in Bratt's favor; Xander Bogaerts (.578 vs sliders, 45 PA) also sits below the water line.
- **Arizona's Two-Strike Excellence:** The D-backs are #1 in MLB with a .184 AVG in 0-2 counts (392 AB) and carry a .175 two-strike AVG (9th best MLB) – a full-count machine drawing 175 walks in 394 AB (.763 OPS).
- **Waldschmidt's Slider Damage:** Ryan Waldschmidt owns a 1.167 OPS vs sliders league-wide (26 PA, 5th best MLB) and Corbin Carroll is at 1.072 vs sliders (66 PA) – both vs. Mize's 26.3%-usage slider.
- **Moreno's Sinker Mash:** Gabriel Moreno has a 1.094 OPS vs sinkers (75 PA) and .959 vs four-seams (96 PA), and is #1 in MLB at .453 opp-field AVG vs RHP and #1 pitcher-ahead AVG at .336 (130 PA).
- **McCann's Tear vs. RHP:** James McCann owns a .968 OPS vs right-handers (58 PA) with all 4 homers off righties, carries a 10-game hit streak, and has a 1.553 OPS with RISP (29 PA).
- **Lefty/Righty Platoon Wall:** Bratt allows a .345 AVG / 1.091 OPS to lefties (30 PA) vs .250/.822 to righties; Mize holds lefties to a .194 AVG / .507 OPS (193 PA) vs .237/.708 to righties – the two starters' handedness edges point in opposite directions.
- **Bullpen Leverage Contrast:** SDP's 3.71 bullpen ERA (6th best MLB) and 9.00 K/9 (8th best) meets ARI's 4.15 ERA (18th) and 7.70 K/9 (5th worst), though Arizona owns the 2nd-best BB/9 in baseball (3.04).
- **Sewald's Contact Damage:** Arizona's closer pairs a 2.10 BB/9 with a 15.9% barrel rate (bottom 1st percentile), .534 SLG allowed and 43% hard-hit – the league's worst-contact closer profile against a San Diego order hitting .290 in the second half.
- **Garcia's Inherited-Runner Perfection:** Brandyn Garcia has stranded all 17 inherited runners (0/17 IRS) with a #1 9th-inning Opp AVG of .032 and a 55.9% whiff sweeper – the setup arm to watch regardless of inning.
- **ABS Challenge Edge:** Arizona is 67.6% on pitching/defense challenges (2nd best MLB) with a +29.9 net vs expected (5th best); San Diego hitters are 44.2% (7th worst) with a -8.0 net.
- **Home-Plate Zone:** James Jean runs a near-league-average zone in 16 HP games (23.6% K, 12.9% BB) with no ejections; vs LHB low he leans balls (-6 pp called-strike on takes, n=153).

How Tonight Unfolds

- Mize makes his Padres debut after being acquired from Detroit at Monday's deadline; he last pitched July 25 (6.0 IP, 1 ER vs KC) and carries a season line of 2.70 ERA, 0.992 WHIP, .213 Opp AVG over 16 starts.
- His road split is 3.07 ERA / 1.10 WHIP over 8 starts (45 K in 41.0 IP), and he has held lefties to a .194 AVG / .507 OPS (193 PA) – he's the right-hander tonight.
- Bratt makes his first career start vs the Padres; his last two outings were his longest and best (5.0 IP each, 1 ER vs CLE on July 31), but the 6.68 BB/9 walk rate remains the risk lever.
- Arizona's order projects 6 right to 3 left, blunting Mize's lefty edge and putting the focus on his splitter/slider work vs right-handed bats.
- San Diego's projected order is lefty-loaded (Merrill, Cronenworth, Sheets, Song, Workman) plus the switch-hitting Rengifo – the platoon wall Bratt faces from the jump.
- **The Padres' bullpen is freshest at the top:** Mason Miller hasn't pitched since Aug. 1 (30 pitches) with a 0.00 ERA over his last five appearances; Bradgley Rodriguez (9 pitches Aug. 4) and Griffin Canning (7 pitches) also come in light. Arizona's two highest-leverage arms both pitched Tuesday: closer Sewald (19 pitches) and setup piece Loáisiga (12), leaving Kevin Ginkel (last 8/1, 25 pitches) as the most rested option.
- Chase Field is a retractable-roof park – Yuki Matsui owns the best opponent AVG in MLB in those conditions (.074), a lefty matchup lever for the Padres' bridge.

Game Keys

Key	Why It Matters
Mize's first-pitch strikes vs. ARI's two-strike discipline	66.0% F-Strike% against the league's #1 0-2 count AVG (.184)
Bratt's four-seam vs. Machado/France	Machado 1.049 OPS vs four-seamers (142 PA); Bratt's heater allows a .586 SLG

Key	Why It Matters
Left-handed platoon wall	Bratt allows 1.091 OPS vs LHB (30 PA); SDP stacks 5 lefty/switch bats
Mize's splitter as putaway	34.5% whiff rate; 45% usage on 0-2 – face of ARI's two-strike excellence
The rested ninth inning	Miller 0.76 ERA, 16.70 K/9 (2nd MLB), fresh since Aug. 1
Garcia's inherited-runner perfection	0/17 IRS, #1 9th-inning Opp AVG (.032) – Arizona's stopper regardless of inning
Sewald's contact damage vs. SDP's 2nd-half AVG	15.9% barrel rate (bottom 1%) against .290 2nd-half club AVG (#1 MLB)
ABS challenge gap	ARI 67.6% success (2nd best MLB) vs. SDP hitters 44.2% (7th worst)

"It's strikes, a fastball/split/slider combo. He's got the out pitch, split-finger fastball that he can use to get righties and lefties out. He's a guy we've been scouting here for years. – A.J. Preller · AP · Aug 5, 2026

Broadcast line: The league's best two-strike hitting team (.184 in 0-2) faces the righty with a 34.5%-whiff splitter and 66.0% first-pitch strikes, while a rookie lefty with a .345 SLG-allowed heater gets a lefty-stacked San Diego order – and the bullpen tilt hard toward a rested Mason Miller.

Deep-Dive Contents

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1. SDP Team Chapter

SDP Identity Tonight

The Padres are a bullpen-and-defense club in a contact-lean offensive season: a rotation at 4.61 starter ERA (5th worst MLB) is propped up by a 3.71 bullpen ERA (6th best MLB) and an above-average glove core, and they win the innings the starter cannot cover. They enter one game behind Arizona in the NL wild-card chase, and Monday's deadline additions of Casey Mize and Robbie Ray are aimed squarely at ending the bullpen-game roulette that defined their July.

- **Pitching Is the Identity:** Mason Miller (0.76 ERA, 16.70 K/9 – 2nd best MLB) anchors the ninth, with Adrian Morejon's 50.3% ground-ball rate (2nd best among MLB relievers) as the bridge; the pen's 3.71 ERA is the clear separator in a tight series.
- **Defense Wins Close Games: +16 DRS** with Ty France +7 OAA (1st best among 1B) and Xander Bogaerts +6 OAA at SS – and the club is 42-5 (89.4%) when leading after six.
- **Contact Over Power, Until the Big Spot:** A .236 AVG (7th worst) and .696 OPS (7th worst) at 4.2 R/G (10th worst), yet the **8.0% barrel rate** is a clear edge over Arizona and Campusano is #2 in MLB at .362 with two outs.
- **Run Game as the Power Substitute:** Tatis's **26 SB (7th best MLB)** and Merrill's SB rate (**9th best MLB**) give the order a speed dimension while HR droughts pile up across it.
- **Second-Half Bats:** #1 in MLB in 2nd-half batting AVG (.290) and .293 on this road trip – the lineup that sputtered early is the one hitting now.

What's Working

- **Second-Half Surge:** 9-3 over the last 14 games with a **.292 AVG and 3.40 ERA** in that window; 8-2 in the last 10 and #1 in MLB in 2nd-half batting AVG (.290).
- **Two-Out Clutch:** Campusano #2 in MLB at .362 with two outs, and the club hits **.266/.369/.422 (.791 OPS)** with two outs and runners in scoring position.
- **The Bridge to Miller:** Morejon has a 0.00 ERA over his last 6.0 IP, Matsui 0.00 over his last 7.1 IP, and Miller is 28-for-29 in save chances.
- **Defensive stalwarts:** France +7 OAA (1st best among 1B) with an active 23-game hard-hit (95+ mph) streak; Bogaerts +6 OAA at shortstop.

What's Not

- **Rotation Thinness:** 4.61 starter ERA (5th worst MLB) – bullpen games covered three-fifths of the rotation for two weeks before the deadline; Mize debuts tonight, Ray Friday.
- **HR Drought Across the Order:** Tatis (12), Bogaerts (19), Cronenworth (21) and Sheets (27, with a T-6th best XBH drought at 25) are all cold from the yard – and the road trip has produced 0 HR in two games.
- **Framing Behind the Plate:** -3.9 framing runs (9th worst MLB), with Campusano at -4.9.
- **Rengifo's Slide:** AVG 6th worst MLB (2nd worst NL), SLG 2nd worst MLB (1st worst NL), OPS 2nd worst MLB (1st worst NL).
- **Challenge Misfires:** Hitters have used **86 challenges (2nd worst MLB)** with just a **44.2% success rate (7th worst)**.

Front Office

A.J. Preller – President of Baseball Operations & General Manager.

- **Buyer at the Deadline:** Acquired Casey Mize (Tigers) and Robbie Ray (Giants), plus Gage Workman, for prospects in the final hours of Monday's window – no active-roster players surrendered.
- **Rotation-Reinforcement Logic:** The deals hit the club's biggest need head-on, a staff at 4.61 starter ERA that leaned on bullpen games; Mize starts tonight and Ray debuts Friday vs. Houston.
- **Win-Now Stance:** >

"We're trying to win. We don't apologize for it. We're trying to win championships. We're trying to get to the postseason and do it year after year. – A.J. Preller · CBS Sports · Aug 4, 2026

Manager & Coaching Staff

Craig Stammen – Manager, 59-55; 1st MLB managerial season (since 2026); 1st season with SDP.

Name	Title
Craig Stammen	Manager
Ruben Niebla	Major League Pitching Coach/Associate Manager
Randy Knorr	Bench Coach
Steven Souza Jr.	Hitting Coach
Ben Fritz	Bullpen Coach
Bob Henley	Third Base Coach
David Macias	First Base Coach, Outfield & Base Running Instructor
Nick Punto	Infield Coach
Ryan Goins	Infield Instructor
Kevin Plawecki	Catching Coach
Vinny Lopez	Field Coordinator/Outfield and Baserunning Instructor
Mike McCoy	Assistant Hitting Coach

Name	Title
Pat O'S ullivan	Assistant Hitting Coach
Raul Padron	Hitting Instructor
Peter Summerville	Game Planning & Pitching Strategist
Heberto Andrade	Bullpen Catcher & Coaching Assistant
Chris Apecechea	Coaching Assistant, Pitching
Allen Craig	Special Assistant, Major League Staff & Baseball Operations
A.J. Ellis	Special Assistant, Major League Staff & Baseball Operations

Clubhouse & Notable Storylines

- **Stakes:** SDP 59-55, **one game behind Arizona (60-54)** for the third NL wild card; 10.0 GB in the NL West (#3); L10 8-2, W1; 2026 season series even at 4-4.
- **Score-State:** 42-5 (89.4%) when leading after six; 16-16 in one-run games; 37-17 (68.5%) when scoring first.
- **Trip Form:** Road trip 8/3-8/4 is 1-1 with a **.293 AVG and 5.0 R/G** – but 0 HR and a .689 OPS, contact over power.
- **Streaks:** Active 24-game scoring streak (6th best of 27) and a 3-game home win streak (T-3rd best of 17).
- **Wild-Card Head-to-Head:** The four-game set in Phoenix sits at one apiece after a 9-4 Tuesday win (Randy Vásquez six scoreless) following Monday's opener loss.
- **Mize's Debut:** The right-hander makes his first San Diego start tonight – 2.70 ERA / 0.99 WHIP over 16 Tigers starts and a 2.35 career ERA vs. Arizona.
- **Rotation Makeover:** Mize and Ray join a staff that used bullpen games to cover three-fifths of the rotation; Joe Musgrove (Tommy John last October) and Nick Pivetta (flexor strain) both began rehab outings Tuesday.

"There was just a different energy, a little bit more energy. The guys brought it today – against a really good pitcher, one of the guys that's been pitching the best in the National League. – [Craig Stammen](#) · [MLB.com](#) · Aug 5, 2026

"It's always nice to improve your roster and like (general manager) A.J. (Preller) says, we're here to try to win. Adding those guys is a part of that process. – [Craig Stammen](#) · [AP](#) · Aug 4, 2026

Conditions

- **Roof Edge:** Chase Field's retractable roof is up, and Yuki Matsui is #1 in MLB with a .074 opponent AVG in retractable-roof parks – a real edge for the lefty out of the pen tonight.
- **Road Dome Setup:** The Padres hit better away (.243/.314/.411, .724 OPS) than at Petco (.229/.311/.355, .666 OPS), so the roofed road environment is not a penalty for this lineup.

Broadcast line: A deadline-built rotation push lands one game back in a head-to-head wild-card series, with a top-6 bullpen and a #1-in-MLB retractable-roof lefty waiting in the wings.

2. ARI Team Chapter

ARI Identity Tonight

Arizona's identity is patience and defense over raw power: the best walk rate in baseball, a top-tier defensive unit, and a two-strike discipline that refuses to cave. That control-first profile is under strain tonight, with the rotation banged up and rookie arms carrying a series that swings the wild-card race.

- **Pitching Is the Identity (Control):** The staff walks almost nobody – **2.9 BB/9 (3rd best MLB)** – and the bullpen lives on the strike-throwing of Brandyn Garcia (2.03 ERA, .774 WHIP, 7th best league) and Juan Morillo (10.80 K/9, 1.000 WHIP).
- **Elite Two-Strike Discipline:** Arizona is #1 in MLB with a .184 AVG in 0-2 counts (392 AB) and carries a .175 two-strike AVG (9th best MLB) – a full-count machine that draws 175 walks in 394 AB (.763 OPS).
- **Defense Wins: +18 DRS / +29 OAA** with Corbin Carroll (+9 OAA, 1st best among RF) and Geraldo Perdomo (+9 OAA, 8th best among SS) anchoring the outfield and middle infield.
- **Lefty-Mashing Order:** #1 MLB at .281 AVG vs LH starters and #1 at .298 vs LHP as LHB – the bat is platoon-built, though tonight's starter Mize throws from the right side.
- **Starter Edge Over San Diego:** ARI rotation ERA 4.28 vs SDP's 4.61 (5th worst MLB) is a 12-spot MLB gap – the one pitching axis that favors the home side tonight.

What's Working

- **Two-Strike Survival:** #1 in MLB in 0-2 count AVG (.184) and 9th best MLB in two-strike AVG (.175) – the order does its damage after the pitcher gets ahead, which is exactly Mize's game (66.0% first-pitch strikes).
- **Catcher Batting:** #1 in MLB at .280 AVG as catcher – Moreno (.298/.380/.438) and the red-hot McCann (.560 AVG / 1.553 OPS with RISP, 29 PA) give Arizona a top-of-the-league catching combo.
- **Setup Bridge:** Garcia has stranded all 17 inherited runners (0/17 IRS) with a #1 9th-inning Opp AVG (.032); Clarke adds a 2.12 ERA and .824 WHIP as the soft-contact bridge.
- **Challenge System:** A 67.6% success rate on pitching/defense challenges (2nd best MLB) with a +29.9 net vs expected (5th best MLB) – a quiet, consistent edge.
- **Late-Inning Offense:** Arizona scores 60 runs in the 7th and 70 in the 8th – its two biggest innings of the season, per play-by-play.

What's Not

- **Bullpen ERA 4.15 (18th MLB):** The control is elite but the bottom line lags, and ex-closer Paul Sewald (6.28 ERA, 15.9% barrel rate allowed) was pulled from the ninth-inning role this month after a 7.33 ERA over his last 30 games.
- **Power Ceiling:** A 7.0% barrel rate (6th worst MLB) and .706 OPS (9th worst MLB) mean the offense leans on contact and walks, not damage – no hitter on the club clears even 17 HR.
- **Staff Doesn't Miss Bats: 6.9 K/9 (1st worst MLB)** – the lowest strikeout rate in the game, an FIP of 4.41 (8th worst) trailing the 4.20 team ERA.
- **Struggles vs Righties:** A .229 AVG / .674 OPS vs RH starters – a steep drop from the .281 lefty mark – and a .314 1-0 count AVG (10th worst MLB), both in play against the right-handed Mize.
- **Power Droughts:** Vargas (59-game HR drought, 8th best of 653), Nootbaar (18), Barrosa (16) and Kepler (12) are all mired in extended HR droughts.

Front Office

Name	Title
Mike Hazen	Executive Vice President & General Manager

- **Standing:** 60-54, #2 in the NL West, 9.0 GB – one game up on the Padres for the third NL wild-card spot, with SDP trailing ARI by 1 on W-L.
- **Deadline Watch:** Arizona tried to acquire starting pitching at the trade deadline but came up short, per beat reporting, leaving the rotation to lean on rookies and rehabbing arms through August.
- **Health Infusion:** The front office is counting on the returns of Michael Soroka (rehab: 1 run over 4.0 IP at Triple-A Reno), Corbin Burnes (Tommy John recovery) and Justin Martinez (elbow) to fill the gaps the deadline couldn't.

"Obviously, we're expecting a lot of those guys to come back. [Justin Martinez] should be back here shortly, and [Michael] Soroka is going to be back shortly. And then getting those other guys, as we move through August and September. – Mike Hazen · Arizona Diamondbacks on SI · Aug 3, 2026

Manager & Coaching Staff

Current manager: Torey Lovullo – Manager | Season record as manager: 60-54

Manager tenure: 10th MLB managerial season (since 2017); 10th season with ARI.

Name	Title
Torey Lovullo	Manager
Jeff Banister	Bench Coach
Joe Mather	Hitting Coach
Shaun Larkin	Field Coordinator / Infield Coach
Travis Denker	Assistant Hitting Coach
Damion Easley	Assistant Hitting Coach
Brian Kaplan	Pitching Coach
Owen Dew	Assistant Pitching Coach
Dave McKay	First Base Coach
J.R. House	Third Base & Catching Coach
Wellington Cepeda	Bullpen Coach

Clubhouse & Notable Storylines

- **Stakes:** 60-54, #2 NL West, 9.0 GB, one game clear of the Padres for the third wild-card spot; L10 5-5, L1 entering tonight, and the season series is knotted at 4-4 through 8 meetings.
- **Score-State:** 20-16 in one-run games, 5-6 in extra innings; 83.3% when leading after six, 17.6% when trailing after six – the club wins when it controls the game state.
- **Trip Form:** 1-1 on this home stand (Aug 3-4), .242 AVG with 3 HR and 4.5 R/G, a 3.50 team ERA – the offense was quiet in Tuesday's 9-4 loss after a 5-1 win Monday.
- **Wild-Card Race:** Since July 9 Arizona owns the best record in the National League (14-6) and leads the majors with 118 runs in that span, tied with Philadelphia for the final two NL wild-card spots entering this four-game set.

"It's my favorite month of baseball. I think the season starts to take shape. The contenders and pretenders start to separate. – Torey Lovullo · Field Level Media · Aug 3, 2026

- **Rookie Rotation Test:** With the rotation banged up, rookies Mitch Bratt (tonight's starter, 5.23 ERA) and Kohl Drake are carrying a series with the tiebreaker on the line – Soroka's return could replace one within a week.
- **Closer-by-Committee:** Lovullo pulled Paul Sewald from the ninth after two blown saves in three chances; Garcia (0/17 IRS, #1 9th-inning Opp AVG .032) is the first option with Morillo, Loáisiga and Ginkel also in the mix.
- **On-Base Engine Returns:** Moreno is back from paternity leave tonight as the DH after reaching base in 40 straight starts, while McCann carries a 10-game hit streak and a 1.553 with-RISP OPS into the heart of the order.

Conditions

- **Chase Dome:** Arizona owns a .734 OPS at home vs .681 on the road and a 32-23 Chase Field record – the retractable roof and familiar dirt give the home side a clear edge.
- **Home Stand Form:** The Diamondbacks have hit 3 HR in two home-stand games and score more in the 7th (60) and 8th (70) than any other innings, setting up a late-inning finish at home.

Broadcast line: The best walk and two-strike discipline in baseball, a +18 DRS defense and a closer-by-committee bullpen anchor a wild-card grudge match as Arizona rides rookie arms against the division rival Padres.

3. Casey Mize (SDP) – Starting Pitcher Dossier

Casey Mize – Padres debut in a wild-card fight

Acquired from Detroit at Monday's deadline, the right-hander makes his first San Diego start tonight carrying a career-best season into a head-to-head with the team sitting just ahead of the Padres in the wild-card chase.

Season & Career Arc

ERA	FIP	K%	BB%	WHIP	Opp AVG	bWAR
2.70	2.58	24.9%	5.6%	.992	.213	2.9

- **Career-best profile:** 16 starts with Detroit produced 85 K against 19 BB in 86.2 IP, a 158 ERA+, and career-bests in K rate (24.9%), walk rate (5.6%), xERA (3.07) and xwOBA (.273) – he was on a 2.20 ERA over his final five Tigers starts.

- **The trade chapter:** left the Tigers at the deadline after a groin injury cost him time early, and he has not pitched since July 25 – a 6.0 IP, 1 ER no-decision vs Kansas City – after being scratched from a July 31 start with the deadline looming.

Form & Streaks

- **Tough-luck run with Detroit:** the Tigers went just 5-11 in his 16 starts despite his 2.70 ERA, with 3.2 runs of support per start (vs a 5-11 team mark in his games).
- **Road profile for tonight:** his away split sits at 3.07 ERA / 1.10 WHIP over 8 starts (45 K in 41.0 IP), vs a 2.36 ERA / 0.898 WHIP at home – Chase Field is a road assignment.
- **Familiar opponent:** 0-0 with a 2.35 ERA across 2 career starts vs Arizona (7.2 IP, 2 ER, 11 K), and 1.50 ERA in his one 2026 meeting.

Arsenal & Delivery

- **Three-pitch core:** splitter (23.7% usage, 87.9 mph, **34.5% whiff**, .292 SLG vs) is the putaway, with a slider (26.3%, 27.7% whiff) and four-seam (34.4%, 26.2% whiff) around it; sinker 10.7% and a slurve round out the mix.
- **Velo down, ride up:** four-seam velocity has ticked down three straight years, 95.5 → 94.6 → 93.4 mph, while vertical movement climbed 17.7 → 18.7 → 20.1 inches – trading velocity for rising ride.
- **Count-specific beats:** 66.0% first-pitch strikes and 56.0% zone on 0-0; with two strikes he flips to the splitter (45% on 0-2), and in leverage counts the slider takes over (44% on 2-0, 38% on 3-2).
- **Stable slot:** a high three-quarter release that has barely moved across three seasons while the stuff underneath shifted.

Matchup Tonight

- **Righty-heavy order:** Arizona projects 6 R to 3 L, blunting Mize's lefty edge (.194/.507 vs LHB vs .237/.708 vs RHB) and putting the focus on his splitter/slider work vs right-handed bats.
- **Pitch-type edges:** Ryan Waldschmidt owns a 1.167 OPS vs sliders league-wide (26 PA, 5th best MLB); Corbin Carroll is at 1.072 vs sliders (66 PA); Gabriel Moreno 1.094 vs sinkers (75 PA) and .959 vs four-seams (96 PA); Nolan Arenado .973 vs four-seams (114 PA).
- **Soft spots in the board:** Lars Nootbaar is at .353 OPS vs changeups league-wide (33 PA), Arenado .580 vs changeups (42 PA), and Ketel Marte .399 vs four-seams (46 PA).
- **BvP:** Max Kepler is 2-for-11 (12 PA), Corbin Carroll 2-for-4, and James McCann 0-for-3 against Mize; no career REG PA vs Nootbaar, Tim Tawa, Ildemaro Vargas, Tyler Locklear, Waldschmidt, Arenado or Marte.

Storylines

- **Wild-card stakes:** San Diego (59-55) entered play one game behind Arizona for the third NL wild card – a head-to-head debut against a division rival chasing the same spot.

"It's strikes, a fastball/split/slider combo. He's got the out pitch, split-finger fastball that he can use to get righties and lefties out. He's a guy we've been scouting here for years. – A.J. Preller · AP · Aug 5, 2026
- **HR stinginess:** ranks 3rd among MLB starting pitchers in home runs allowed per nine (0.520) this season.

What Matters Tonight

Career-best K/BB control (24.9% K, 5.6% BB) meets a Diamondbacks order that has been one of the league's softer targets for opposing arms (0.921 Opp OPS against tonight's rookie counterpart).

- The splitter, his top whiff pitch at 34.5%, is his two-strike weapon against both hands – set against an ARI lineup with two of the order's widest swing profiles (James McCann 42.5% chase, Arenado 30.3%).
- Road split (3.07 ERA) and 11 days of rust since July 25 are the context; a 2.35 career ERA vs Arizona is the counterpoint.
- **Broadcast line:** Mize debuts for a wild-card rival with a career-best K/BB profile, a 34.5%-whiff splitter, and a 2.35 career ERA against the Diamondbacks.

4. Mitch Bratt (ARI) – Starting Pitcher Dossier

Mitch Bratt – Rookie lefty, hit-around heater

Bratt is a 22-year-old rookie lefty whose four-seam fastball has been the most-punished pitch on his card, with a slurve as his swing-and-miss out.

Season & Career Arc

ERA	WHIP	Opp AVG	K/9	BB/9	IP
5.23	1.839	.284	5.35	6.68	20.2

- **Debut 2026:** Bratt arrived via the trade that sent Merrill Kelly to Texas, dominating Triple-A Reno first (2.84 ERA, 42 K, 12 BB in 44.1 IP over 11 starts; 2.4 BB/9 in 13 starts) before earning a spot-start that turned into rotation duty.
- **Command erosion:** He carved out an identity in the minors throwing strikes (4.2% walk rate across 122.1 IP in 2025), but the major-league walk rate has tripled to 6.68 BB/9 – the single biggest wedge between his Reno self and his big-league self.

Form & Streaks

- **Best start came last:** In his most recent outing (July 31 vs CLE), Bratt threw 5.0 innings with 3 hits and 1 earned run – a career-high workload with 4 walks but a clean bottom line, his second straight 5.0-inning start.
- Teams are 3-2 in his appearances despite his 0-1 personal mark, with Arizona winning the two shortest leash starts (3.0 IP each vs STL and LAD).
- **The one meltdown:** July 25 at Washington – 5.0 IP, 5 ER, 5 walks (a self-described career high in walks), 3 Ks, the start where command first "got away."

Arsenal & Delivery

- **Punished four-seam:** His 38.1% usage fastball (91.6 mph, 141 pitches) is the pitch batters are squaring – .345 BA / .586 SLG against with just a 9.9% whiff rate, and it's showing up in the homer column (1.74 HR/9, 49.3% fly-ball rate).
- **Slurve is the putaway:** 26.8% usage at 80.1 mph with a 26.8% whiff rate (99 pitches) – the only pitch generating consistent swing-and-miss; the slider (12.4%, 86.7 mph) is his sharpest per pitch at 28.6% whiff (46 pitches).
- **Sinker is a liability:** 10.0% usage (91.2 mph) has allowed a .900 SLG across 37 pitches with zero whiffs.
- **Delivery:** Bratt releases from a low three-quarter slot (34.9° ball angle on 370 measured pitches) – a flat, near-sidearm angle hitters see well, with no prior MLB season to compare for slot drift.

Matchup Tonight

- **Platoon wall vs lefties:** Against left-handed bats he's allowed a .345 AVG / 1.091 OPS in 30 PA (vs .250 / .822 vs RHB) – and San Diego's projected order is loaded with lefty sticks (Merrill, Cronenworth, Sheets, Song, Workman) plus the switch-hitting Rengifo.

- **Hard-contact opponents:** Manny Machado carries a 1.049 OPS vs four-seam fastballs league-wide (142 PA) and 10.8% barrel rate; Ty France has a 1.026 OPS vs sliders (38 PA) and 11.0% barrels, and a .523 SLG on the season.
- **Sinker matchups:** Jackson Merrill owns a 1.119 OPS vs sinkers league-wide (61 PA); Luis Campusano sits at .910 – both against the pitch Bratt has allowed a .900 SLG on.
- **The soft side of the lineup:** Freddy Fermin (.304 OPS vs sliders, 28 PA) and Jake Cronenworth (.546 vs sinkers, 41 PA) are the reverse edges in Bratt's favor, while Xander Bogaerts (.578 vs sliders, 45 PA) and Machado (.611 vs sinkers, 98 PA) are below the water line against his secondaries.

Storylines

- **The trade-circle twist:** Bratt was the centerpiece return when Arizona dealt Merrill Kelly to Texas last July – and Kelly re-signed with the D-backs this winter, putting the man he was traded for in his own clubhouse. "When I introduced myself I made sure to tell him I got traded for him."
- **On the command fix:** After the July 25 walk-fest at Washington, Bratt framed it as an identity reset: "The command has gotten away a little bit. It's kind of an identity thing... I have to get back to who I was in Triple-A all year, just trusting my stuff." (Arizona Republic, July 28)
- **Homecoming-adjacent debut:** A Greater Tor onto-area kid (a group of ~20 friends and family drove up to 13 hours for his MLB debut in St. Louis), Bratt is a 2025 second-round prospect and Arizona's No. 14 farmh and entering the year.

What Matters Tonight

Bratt's four-seam has been battered all year (.345/.586 against) and his sinker has a .900 SLG; the Padres' hardest-contact bats (Machado, France) feast on exactly those shapes.

- The platoon split is stark – lefties carry a 1.091 OPS off him – and San Diego can stack five lefty/switch bats in the top two-thirds of the order.
- His last two starts have been his longest and best (5.0 IP each, 1 ER vs CLE), but the 6.68 BB/9 walk rate remains the risk lever against a patient Bogaerts (23.9% chase) and a chase-hungry Merrill (36.8%).
- **Broadcast line:** A rookie lefty whose heater gets barreled and whose breaking ball is the out pitch, carrying a lefty-platoon crater into a lefty-heavy San Diego order – the walk rate, not the stuff, is the story.

5. SDP Bullpen Breakdown

Leverage Map

- **Closer:** Mason Miller owns the ninth – 28-for-29 in save chances with a 0.76 ERA and a 16.70 K/9 (2nd best in MLB). He has been even sharper lately: 0.00 ERA and a 0.35 WHIP with 10 K over his last five appearances, and he has not pitched since Aug. 1 (30 pitches vs. SFG), so he is fully rested tonight.
- **Setup:** Adrian Morejon is the primary eighth-inning arm (17 holds) – a 50.3% ground-ball rate that is 2nd best among MLB relievers keeps traffic off the bases, and his last-14-days line is a clean 0.00 ERA over 6.0 IP. Jeremiah Estrada (9 HLD, .163 vs. LHB) and Bradgley Rodriguez (8 HLD) back him up.
- **Lefty trust:** The matchup duo is Yuki Matsui and Wandy Peralta. Matsui is the sharper side (.148 vs. LHB, 0.00 ERA over 7.1 IP last two weeks) with the added quirk that he is #1 in MLB in opponent AVG in retractable-roof parks (.074) – a Chase Field edge tonight; Peralta is the contact ground-ball option (5.70 K/9).
- **Inherited-runner stress:** Bradgley Rodriguez has stranded only 12 of 25 inherited runners (13 scored), the softest spot on the bridge to Miller – he has still posted a 2.39 ERA and a second-half K/9 spike to 15.6.

Available Arms

- **Mason Miller:** 0.76 ERA, .807 WHIP (10th best in MLB), 16.70 K/9 (2nd best in MLB), 3.00 BB/9, 28/29 SV/Opp – last 8/1 vs. SFG (1.2 IP, 30 P). His 49.2% strikeout rate is the best among MLB relievers, and he has held right-handed hitters to a .100 AVG; the walk rate (3.00 BB/9) is the only lever hitters can pull.
- **Adrian Morejon:** 3.00 ERA, 1.067 WHIP, 10.50 K/9, 2.30 BB/9, 2/7 SV/Opp, 17 HLD – last 8/2 vs. SFG (1.1 IP, 22 P). The ground-ball machine (50.3%, 2nd best MLB) has paired a 2.30 BB/9 with a 0.00 ERA over his last 6.0 IP; only 9 of 31 inherited runners have scored.
- **Jeremiah Estrada:** 3.80 ERA, 1.207 WHIP, 10.60 K/9, 4.90 BB/9, 1/3 SV/Opp, 9 HLD – last 8/3 vs. ARI (0.2 IP, 7 P). He is a lefty specialist in practice (.163 vs. LHB, 3rd-best Opp AVG in MLB with his battery), but the 4.90 BB/9 has left his last-three-days line at a 9.00 ERA over just 2.0 IP, and he has worked three straight days (15/10/7 pitches).
- **Bradgley Rodriguez (rookie):** 2.39 ERA, 1.143 WHIP, 9.60 K/9, 2.90 BB/9, 0/4 SV/Opp, 8 HLD – last 8/4 vs. ARI (1.0 IP, 9 P). His second-half K/9 has jumped to 15.6 (3rd best in MLB), but the last two weeks have been a mixed bag – a 4.50 ERA over 6.0 IP with 10 strikeouts but 13 of 25 inherited runners scoring.
- **Yuki Matsui:** 2.30 ERA, 1.186 WHIP, 9.80 K/9, 5.20 BB/9, 6 HLD – last 8/3 vs. ARI (1.1 IP, 22 P). The lefty carries a .148 opponent AVG vs. LHB and has not allowed an earned run over his last 7.1 IP (0.68 WHIP), with a 49-pitch outing on July 31 the heaviest recent workload in the group.
- **Wandy Peralta:** 3.47 ERA, 1.386 WHIP, 5.70 K/9, 3.50 BB/9, 0/2 SV/Opp, 4 HLD – last 8/3 vs. ARI (1.0 IP, 25 P). The contact lefty is in a rough window – a 7.11 ERA and 1.74 WHIP over his last six appearances (6.1 IP) – though his ground-ball profile has limited the damage to one home run.
- **Kyle Hart:** 4.53 ERA, 1.065 WHIP, 7.80 K/9, 2.70 BB/9, 0/1 SV/Opp, 5 HLD – the long man has been lights-out of late: a 0.00 ERA over 8.2 IP across his last four outings. His season split tells the real story: a 1.04 ERA and 0.808 WHIP as a starter (both 2nd best in MLB) against a 4.53 mark overall, so the bulk of his runs have come in relief.
- **Randy Vásquez:** 4.19 ERA, 1.416 WHIP, 5.80 K/9, 2.80 BB/9 – a low-K swingman who has been much better than his season line lately, with a 0.68 ERA over 13.1 IP in his last three appearances. The platoon gap is real – .311 vs. LHB vs. .249 vs. RHB – and career REG history is a flag: Geraldo Perdomo (4-for-10) and Corbin Carroll (5-for-15) have both squared him up.
- **Griffin Canning:** 6.49 ERA, 1.529 WHIP, 8.90 K/9, 4.20 BB/9 – the mop-up/long arm has allowed four home runs over his last 8.2 IP, though the handedness split flips hard: .312 vs. LHB vs. .221 vs. RHB. One booth-worthy career edge: he has held Nolan Arenado to 1-for-13 (.077) with 5 strikeouts.

Workload & Mix

- **Freshness at the top:** Mason Miller has thrown 30 pitches since Aug. 1 and is fully rested; Bradgley Rodriguez (9 pitches Aug. 4) and Griffin Canning (7 pitches Aug. 4) also come in light.
- **Heavy recent usage:** Jeremiah Estrada has worked three straight days (15/10/7 pitches through Aug. 3), and Yuki Matsui's 49-pitch outing July 31 followed by 22 on Aug. 3 is the heaviest two-week load in the pen – both are the arms to watch for leverage fatigue.
- **How the pen misses bats:** the unit runs a 9.00 K/9 (8th best in MLB) against a 3.35 BB/9 (7th best in MLB), and the 1.01 HR/9 has kept the ball in the yard; the four-inning stretch from Miller (10 K), Matsui (8 K), Morejon (9 K) and Hart (8 K) has been a combined 0.00 ERA over the last two weeks.
- **Park edge:** tonight's Chase Field is a retractable-roof park, and Matsui has the best opponent AVG in MLB in those conditions (.074) – the lefty matchup lever and the park both point the same way.

What Matters Tonight

- The Padres' 3.71 bullpen ERA (6th best MLB) stacks up cleanly against Arizona's 4.15 pen, and the strikeout gap is the separator – San Diego's 9.00 K/9 vs. Arizona's 7.70 (5th worst in MLB).
- Mason Miller enters a dome with three days of rest and 28-for-29 save conversion, and his last 14 days are a 0.00 ERA with a 0.35 WHIP – the ninth inning has been a non-event for San Diego.
 - Arizona's left-handed bats (Corbin Carroll, Lars Nootbaar) run into a lefty bridge that has been near-automatic: Matsui (.148 vs. LHB, 0.00 ERA last two weeks) and Peralta, though Peralta's 7.11 ERA window is the softest recent spot on the staff.
 - The two most used arms (Estrada three straight days, Matsui's heavy load) are the fatigue flags, while Miller, Bradgley Rodriguez and Canning all come in fresh.

Broadcast line: San Diego's bullpen is 6th in MLB ERA (3.71) and leans on a rested Mason Miller (0.76 ERA, 28-for-29 saves, MLB-best 49.2% reliever strikeout rate) behind a lefty duo that owns Chase Field's dome – Yuki Matsui at .074 opponent AVG in retractable parks and a .148 mark vs. lefties over a 0.00-ERA last two weeks.

6. Bullpen Breakdown: Arizona Diamondbacks

A control-first unit – the second-best walk rate in baseball – with a lefty stopper carrying the high-leverage innings while a veteran closer works around an ugly ERA by converting saves at a 24-of-27 clip.

Leverage Map

- Closer – Paul Sewald:** 24-of-27 saves with a 2.10 BB/9 and 10.20 K/9, but the 6.28 ERA traces to contact damage, not walks: a 15.9% barrel rate (bottom 1st percentile), .534 SLG allowed and a 43% hard-hit rate. Tougher on righties (.161 Opp AVG) than lefties (.279).
- Setup stopper – Brandyn Garcia:** 13 holds and 3-of-3 saves, and he has stranded all 17 inherited runners this season (0/17 IRS) – the #1 9th-inning Opp AVG in MLB at .032. 2.03 ERA, .774 WHIP (7th best league).
- Setup K-arm – Juan Morillo:** 14 holds on a 10.80 K/9 with a 1.000 WHIP, and a #2 Opp AVG of .051 against the top two lineup spots.
- Bridge – Taylor Clarke:** 12 holds at 2.12 ERA and a .824 WHIP without big strikeout numbers (4.80 K/9); #2 8th-inning Opp AVG at .091.
- Lefty trust:** Garcia is the trusted southpaw and, unusually for a lefty, shows no platoon gap (.163 vs LHB, .161 vs RHB). The other lefties – Kohl Drake (4.85 ERA) and Philip Abner (6.75 ERA) – are the lower-leverage options.
- Inherited-runner edge:** beyond Garcia's perfect 0/17, Sewald has stranded all 5 he's inherited; Loáisiga has allowed just 3 of 17. Ginkel is the leak at 8 of 20.

Available Arms

- Paul Sewald:** 6.28 ERA, 1.126 WHIP, 10.20 K/9, 2.10 BB/9, 24/27 SV – last 8/4 vs SDP (1.0 IP, 19 P). Walks almost nobody (5.6% BB, 90th percentile) while striking out a batter-plus per inning, but the 15.9% barrel rate is the worst-contact closer profile in the league; also owns a #3 saves-situation Opp AVG of .100.
- Kevin Ginkel:** 3.04 ERA, 1.125 WHIP, 8.20 K/9, 2.50 BB/9, 11 HLD, 8/20 IRS – last 8/1 vs CLE (1.0 IP, 25 P). Posts a #1 Opp AVG of .138 when catching with James McCann behind the dish.
- Taylor Clarke:** 2.12 ERA, .824 WHIP, 4.80 K/9, 1.60 BB/9, 12 HLD, 7/14 IRS – last 8/2 vs CLE (1.2 IP, 20 P). The softest-contact bridge arm: #2 8th-inning Opp AVG (.091) and #2 day-game Opp AVG (.090).
- Jonathan Loáisiga:** 2.80 ERA, 1.111 WHIP, 6.40 K/9, 2.20 BB/9, 1/5 SV, 8 HLD, 3/17 IRS – last 8/4 vs SDP (1.0 IP, 12 P). Extreme platoon: .156 Opp AVG vs RHB against .314 vs LHB.
- Juan Morillo:** 2.54 ERA, 1.000 WHIP, 10.80 K/9, 3.10 BB/9, 1/5 SV, 14 HLD, 4/20 IRS – last 8/3 vs SDP (1.1 IP, 18 P). Top swing-and-miss arm in the setup group, with a #2 Opp AVG of .051 vs the 1-2 hitters and .186 when Moreno catches.
- Brandyn Garcia:** 2.03 ERA, .774 WHIP (7th best league), 10.50 K/9, 2.00 BB/9, 3/3 SV, 13 HLD, 0/17 IRS – last 8/3 vs SDP (1.0 IP, 12 P). Lives on a 97.3 mph sinker (47.7% usage) and a sweeper that has allowed a .024 AVG/.024 SLG with a 55.9% whiff rate; also #1 in home ERA at 0.00.
- Kohl Drake:** 4.85 ERA, 1.462 WHIP, 8.30 K/9, 3.50 BB/9, 12 K – the rookie lefty is the freshest arm in the pen, having not pitched since the weekend (no appearance in the last five days).
- Gerardo Carrillo:** 1.00 ERA, 1.111 WHIP, 10.00 K/9, 4.00 BB/9, 10 K – last 8/4 vs SDP (1.0 IP, 12 P). The rookie carries a #2 Opp AVG of .194 when McCann catches across a small sample (10 K).
- Philip Abner:** 6.75 ERA, 1.500 WHIP, 4.80 K/9, 5.80 BB/9, 2/6 IRS, 5 K – the rookie lefty is a thin-sample, low-leverage arm (5 K) and has not pitched in the last five days.

Workload & Mix

- Rested vs worked:** Kevin Ginkel is the freshest high-leverage arm – no outing since 8/1 (25 pitches). Sewald (19), Loáisiga (12) and Carrillo (12) all threw Tuesday 8/4, so the late-inning bridge is gassed by a back-to-back.
- Identity, not strikeouts:** as a unit the pen is 5th-worst in MLB at 7.70 K/9 – but the strikeouts that do come are concentrated in Sewald, Morillo and Garcia, all 10.50-plus K/9, and the group owns the 2nd-best BB/9 in baseball (3.04).
- Contact suppression:** HR/9 of 0.97 (7th best MLB) has kept the damage low even with the ERA, and Garcia's 61.4% ground-ball rate plus a 26% whiff rate anchor the swing-and-miss that the unit ERA (4.15) undersells.

What Matters Tonight

- Arizona's two highest-leverage arms – closer Sewald and setup piece Loáisiga – both pitched last night, leaving Ginkel (last 8/1) as the most rested option for the late innings.
- Garcia's perfect 0/17 on inherited runners and #1 9th-inning Opp AVG (.032) make him the go-to stopper regardless of the inning.
 - Sewald's platoon (.279 LHB / .161 RHB) meets a San Diego order that runs out lefty bats in Merrill and Cronenworth – a matchup the numbers flag from both sides.
 - The unit contrast is stark:** Arizona's 4.15 bullpen ERA (18th) against San Diego's 3.71 (6th), though ARI's 2nd-best BB/9 is the counterweight.

Broadcast line: A control-first Arizona pen (2nd-best BB/9) leans on a lefty stopper in Garcia – 0/17 inherited runners scored, 7th-best WHIP – and a 24-of-27 closer in Sewald who pairs the league's worst barrel rate with a 2.10 BB/9.

7. Tatis Jr. / Rengifo / Machado (SDP)

Fernando Tatis Jr. – elite power, flat swing, steals

The right-handed cleanup-caliber bat who has traded fly balls for hard grounders this year, yet still ranks top-10 in MLB for career slugging and OPS.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
495	.280	.350	.396	.747	8	49	26 (7th best MLB)	9.1%	19.8%

- **Run game as the power outlet:** 26 steals are 7th-best in MLB and 3rd-best in the NL, his most productive base-stealing season since the league cracked down on pickoffs – but the 8 HR in 112 games is a fraction of the .449-.492 slugging marks he posted the prior three years.
- **Contact is elite, launch is not:** Hard-hit rate (52.7%, 6th-best NL) and max exit velocity (115.7 mph, 6th-best NL) remain top-of-the-league, yet the flat swing is putting the ball on the ground – a 4.1° launch angle and 19.6% fly-ball rate are the lowest of his career arc.
- **Clutch profile stands out:** .413 AVG with a 1.008 OPS in Late & Close spots (74 PA) against a .379 OPS when behind in the count (131 PA) – he is at his best with the game on the line.

Form & Streaks

- **June was his month:** .318 with 4 HR in June and .291 with 3 HR in July, following a slow April (.253, 0 HR) – the bat speed climbed from 75.1 mph in April to 77.5 in July.
- **Cold August so far:** 1-for-12 (.083) across his first three August games, and he is riding an active 12-game HR drought (last homer July 21 at Atlanta) with just a 1-game hit streak (season-best 6).
- **Last-14 window is quiet:** .698 OPS over the last 14 days against a .747 season mark – the recent dip is real but shallow.

Contact & Mechanics

- **Bat speed keeps climbing:** 76.1 mph is 6th-fastest in the NL and a third straight year of improvement (72.9 in 2023 → 74.7 in 2024 → 74.0 in 2025 → 76.1 in 2026), yet the swing has flattened dramatically – attack angle down from 11.8° (2023) to 7.3° (2026).
- **The launch-angle story:** fly-ball rate fell from 25.1% (2023) to 19.6% and pull rate from 27.0% to 20.2%, so an elite barrel rate (10.4%) is producing line-drive singles more than homers.
- **Discipline ticked up modestly:** chase rose to 27.4% from 24.5% last season, but the whiff rate (28.3%) still clears the 25-PA season floor and the swing stays in the zone 27% of the time.

Splits

- **Strength – lefty on-base:** .877 OPS vs LHP against a .747 season OPS, giving him a platoon edge against tonight's lefty.
- **Strength – the big spot:** .841 OPS with men on and that 1.008 Late & Close line, his best situational numbers on the club.
- **Weakness – pitcher-ahead counts:** .379 OPS when the pitcher is ahead (131 PA), the coldest count cell in this profile.

Matchup Tonight

No career REG PA vs Mitch Bratt – a first look at the rookie lefty:

- **The fastball matchup:** Bratt leans on a four-seam 38.1% of the time, and that heater has been tattooed all year (.345/.586 against, 9.9% whiff); Tatis's 52.7% hard-hit rate (6th-best NL) is exactly the profile to punish it.
- **Breaking-ball risk:** Bratt's swing-and-miss lives in the slurve (26.8% usage, 26.8% whiff) and slider (12.4%, 28.6% whiff) – the breaking stuff is where Tatis's 27.4% chase can get him to expand.

Storylines

- **Elite-company career:** Tatis ranks 9th-best in MLB all-time in career OPS and SLG, with 160 career REG HR entering tonight – the franchise's highest-ceiling bat in a tight wild-card race.
- **The stolen-base identity:** his 26 steals are a career renaissance on the bases that has made him a table-setter-plus even in a down power year.

What Matters Tonight

Bratt's volume pitch (four-seam, 38.1%) is his weakest – .345/.586 against – while Tatis is a top-6-NL hard-hit and max-EV bat.

- Tatis holds a clear lefty edge (.877 vs LHP) and his best situational numbers are Late & Close (1.008 OPS), the spots that decide games at Chase Field.
- The counter is Bratt's slurve/slider pair, against which Tatis's elevated chase (27.4%) is the lever.
- **Broadcast line:** elite hard-contact and top-10 career OPS against a rookie whose four-seam has been hit hard all season.

Luis Rengifo – heater out of a cold season

The switch-hitting second baseman whose early-season line ranked among the worst in MLB has flipped to one of the league's hottest July bats.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
277	.205 (6th worst MLB)	.280	.254 (2nd worst MLB)	.534 (2nd worst MLB)	2 (8th worst MLB)	27	6	10.1%	11.9% (8th best MLB)

- **The swing-and-miss is elite:** an 11.9% K rate is 8th-best in MLB, the defining positive in a season where AVG, SLG, OPS and HR all rank near the bottom of the league.
- **Heating up sharply:** .385 AVG in July (7 games) and a .892 OPS over the last 14 days against a .534 season OPS – the biggest positive swing on the club (+.358).
- **Second-half resurgence:** .352 AVG in the second half (15th-best MLB) and .381 in July (7th-best MLB), showing a real post-break turnaround rather than noise.

Form & Streaks

- **Active 3-game hit streak** (season-best 8), though he is also on a 10-game HR drought (last homer July 24 at Miami).
- **July was a breakout:** .385 with 1 HR in 7 games after hitting .226 or worse in every prior month (Mar .154, Apr .194, May .217, Jun .226) – the hottest stretch of his season by a wide margin.
- **Last game was quiet:** 1-for-5, but the series line (2-for-9) and the .892 last-14 OPS keep the momentum angle alive.

Contact & Mechanics

- **Low-power profile by design:** a 4.2% barrel rate and 36.6% hard-hit rate with 88.2 mph average EV and a modest 71.2 mph bat speed – he is a contact-first, gap-to-gap hitter, not a damage bat.
- **Chase is a soft spot:** 30.6% chase rate (277 PA) is on the high side for a hitter with his K discipline, which is why the .205 average hides a 10.1% walk rate.
- **July's shift was results, not process:** bat speed and attack angle (7.1°) held flat while the average jumped – the turnaround looks like timing and placement, not a mechanics overhaul.

Splits

- **Weakness – lefty soft spot:** .424 OPS vs LHP against a .534 season OPS – tonight's lefty start is a difficult assignment on paper.

- **Weakness – the count game:** .331 OPS when the pitcher is ahead (70 PA) and .390 after 0-2 counts (41 PA) are the coldest cells in his profile.
- **Strength – RISP:** .300 AVG with a 1.062 OPS in RISP spots (27 PA), his one clear situational edge.

Matchup Tonight

No career REG PA vs Mitch Bratt – a first look at the rookie southpaw:

- **Breaking-ball exposure:** league-wide, Rengifo owns just a .534 OPS vs sliders and .561 vs changeups – both pitches Bratt throws (slider 12.4%, changeup 8.6%) – with a .636 mark vs sinkers (Bratt 10.0%).
- **The sweeper angle:** against sweepers specifically he is at .938 OPS league-wide, and Bratt's slurve (26.8% usage) is the closest family – the one breaking pitch that has not beaten him.
- **Similar-arm history:** Rengifo went 2-for-6 vs Eduardo Rodriguez (LHP) this season and is 7-for-14 (.500, 2 HR) career vs lefty Robbie Ray – the switch-hitter has generally handled same-profile lefties.

Storylines

- **The switch-hitting platoon weapon:** with 64 career REG HR and a 58-steal career, he is the versatile middle-infielder the Padres leaned on for the second spot despite the ugly early numbers.
- **July's revival is the broadcast hook:** one of the league's coldest bats in May (.217) became one of its hottest in July (.385) – a genuine season arc.

What Matters Tonight

Rengifo's July/2nd-half surge (.352) meets a lefty he has no career PA against, with the platoon (.424 vs LHP) the main counter-signal.

- His elite K discipline (11.9%, 8th-best MLB) is the trait that plays against a rookie whose 6.68 BB/9 shows command issues.
- The breaking-ball soft spots (.534 vs sliders league-wide) line up with Bratt's swing-and-miss slurve.
- **Broadcast line:** the league's hottest July bat meets a lefty he has never faced, with elite contact skills against a walk-prone rookie.

Manny Machado – eight from 400, power intact

The Padres' franchise home-run king is chasing 400 career homers while his average sits at a career-low – but the power and the late-season heater remain very real.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
472	.213 (5th worst NL)	.295	.429	.724	23	69 (T-9th best NL)	2	10.8%	22.5%

- **The power never left:** 23 HR and 69 RBI (T-9th-best in MLB, 9th-best NL) despite a .213/.295/.429 line – a classic "average down, power intact" season, with 7 homers since the start of July alone.
- **Career milestone in reach:** 392 career REG HR – 8 away from 400 – with the Padres' all-time franchise home-run lead already his (#1 SDP), and a top-10 NL career home-run rank overall.
- **The swing is elite-long:** a 7.9 ft swing length is T-7th-longest in MLB, and his 10.8% barrel rate with a .295 OBP shows the trade-off – more pull (31.7%), more chase (30.8%), more power.

Form & Streaks

- **Heating up through the summer:** .292 with 7 HR in July after a brutal May (.127) – a .276 average and 7 homers since July 1 per recent game coverage, and he is 3-for-9 in his current series.
- **Active 8-game HR drought** (last homer July 26 at Miami) with just a 1-game hit streak (season-best 6), though his last game was a 3-for-5 with a double and 4 RBI vs the D-backs on Tuesday.
- **RISP has come around:** .775 OPS with RISP and .851 in Late & Close, the situational numbers matching the power revival.

Contact & Mechanics

- **Longest swing on the club:** 7.9 ft (T-7th longest in MLB) at 74.7 mph bat speed – a power-first path that has drifted from 76.7 mph (2023) while pull rate jumped to 31.7%.
- **Chase at a window-high:** 30.8% chase and 26.3% whiff (472 PA) are the loosest swing decisions of his four-year window, explaining the average crater even as barrel (10.8%) holds.
- **Within-season climb:** bat speed rose from 73.6 mph in April to 75.4 in July, and attack angle from 4.7° to 8.3° – the swing got more aggressive and more lofted as the year went on.

Splits

- **Strength – the heater:** 1.049 OPS vs four-seam fastballs league-wide (142 PA) and 1.114 vs cutters (25 PA) – elite against hard stuff.
- **Strength – first pitch:** .370 AVG with a 1.144 OPS on the first pitch (48 PA), aggressive early in counts.
- **Weakness – the secondaries:** .446 OPS vs sweepers (52 PA) and .479 vs changeups (49 PA) league-wide, with a .611 mark vs sinkers (98 PA).

Matchup Tonight

No career REG PA vs Mitch Bratt – a first look at the rookie lefty:

- **The fastball clash:** Bratt leans on a four-seam 38.1% of the time – the pitch Machado crushes (1.049 OPS, 142 PA) – but the rookie's heater has been hammered all year (.345/.586 against), setting up a classic power-vs-power confrontation.
- **The counter is the sinker:** Machado is at just .611 OPS vs sinkers league-wide (98 PA), and Bratt's sinker (10.0% usage) has allowed a .900 SLG on 37 pitches – the soft spot on both sides.
- **Breaking-ball vulnerability:** Machado's .640 OPS vs sliders (62 PA) and .446 vs sweepers (52 PA) line up with Bratt's slurve (26.8%) and slider (12.4%).
- **Similar-arm history:** Machado is 11-for-31 (.355, 1 HR, 9 K) career vs lefty Chris Sale – he has generally handled high-end left-handed breaking-ball pitchers.

Storylines

- **The milestone chase:** 8 away from 400 career REG HR, already the Padres' all-time franchise home-run leader and a top-10 NL career homer bat – every long ball at Chase Field is a step toward 400.
- **The leader's honesty:** "This is why we love baseball. Us baseball players are masochists. We love being tortured." – Manny Machado to USA TODAY (July 2026), on grinding through a career-worst batting line while the power stayed.

What Matters Tonight

Machado's 1.049 OPS vs four-seams (142 PA) meets a rookie who throws the four-seam 38.1% of the time – and has allowed a .345/.586 line on it.

- The milestone (392 career HR, 8 from 400) plus a 7-HR July make him the highest-stakes bat in the San Diego order.
- The counter is Bratt's slurve/slider/sinker mix, where Machado's league-wide OPS dips to .446-.640.
- **Broadcast line:** the Padres' all-time home-run king, eight from 400, with a 1.049 OPS vs the exact pitch Bratt throws most.

8. France / Merrill / Bogaerts (SDP)

Ty France – Homecoming power, three from 100

The Padres' everyday first baseman is having the best power season of his career in his hometown, an 11.0% barrel rate fueling a .523 slugging mark as he closes in on the century mark.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
307	.289	.343	.523	.867	16	49	1	4.9%	23.1%

- **The slugging is a career-best:** .360 SLG in 2025 became .523 this year as barrels jumped from a 6.8-7.7% band the prior three seasons to 11.0%, with 16 HR in 88 games.
- The power came at a cost – whiff rate rose to 28.0% from 21.3% last year – the trade of a little elite zone contact for a lot more damage.
- He is the No. 1 hitter in the league by batting average in innings 4-6 at .379 (2026).

Form & Streaks

- **Hot stretch, cold series:** Over the last 30 days France is hitting .375/.418/.663 with 6 HR and 19 RBI across 21 games, but he is 0-for-8 in this series against Arizona and his last-14 OPS has slid to .764, a -103-point dip off his season mark.
- **Power drought:** France has not homered since July 23 at Atlanta, an active 11-game HR drought – but he has hit the ball hard throughout, carrying a 23-game hard-hit (95+ mph) streak.
- **The July surge behind it:** his two-homer games came at Kansas City on July 19 (including a grand slam) and at Texas on June 19 (another grand slam), with the swing showing a pull-first bend.

Contact & Mechanics

- **The 2026 swing is producing his best power season:** barrel rate jumped to 11.0% (from 6.8-7.7% the prior three years) and pull rate to 29.5% (from 21.4% in 2025), fueling a .523 slugging mark with 16 HR in 88 games.
- Bat speed is steady at ~71-72 mph with a flat 10.6° attack angle, but the angle climbed through the year – 7.1° in May to 12.3° in July – while he kept a 92.6 mph average exit velocity, the highest of the Padres' projected regulars.
- He carries a 50.5% hard-hit rate and 11.0% barrel rate alongside the elevated 28.0% whiff – more power, more swing-and-miss.

Splits

- **Strength:** The right-handed bat is a platoon edge tonight – .854 OPS vs LHP this season with a .816 OPS in late-and-close spots (33 PA sample aside), and a .856 mark with runners in scoring position.
- **Strength:** France is lethal on the first pitch, hitting .448 with a 1.328 OPS on 32 first-pitch PA – an aggressive early-count profile that meets Bratt's 58.8% first-pitch strike rate.
- **Note:** His away OPS (.883) actually beats his home mark (.846), so Chase Field carries no home-field penalty in his splits.

Matchup Tonight

No career REG plate appearances vs Mitch Bratt:

- France owns a 1.026 OPS vs sliders league-wide (38 PA) – the pitch family Bratt leans on with his 26.8% slurve and 12.4% slider.
- He also carries a .992 OPS vs changeups (38 PA, 9th best in MLB) against Bratt's 8.6% changeup, and a .867 OPS vs sinkers (63 PA) against a sinker Bratt has allowed a .900 SLG on this season.
- **Similar-arm LHP history:** France is 9-for-14 (.643) career vs Kris Bubic and 7-for-17 (.412, 2 HR) vs Robbie Ray – lefties whose four-seam-forward mix mirrors Bratt's, both squared up.

Storylines

- **Homecoming Hook:** A San Diego State product drafted by the Padres in the 34th round in 2015, France signed a minor-league deal this spring, made the roster out of camp, and took over as the everyday first baseman when Nick Castellanos was released in June – "being home on top of it – that just adds a little cherry on top" has been his running theme this year.
- **Milestone in Reach:** France sits at 97 career regular-season home runs, 3 away from 100, with his next target Danny Espinosa (98) just above him on the career board.

What Matters Tonight

The RHB-vs-LHP edge (.854 vs LHP) meets a rookie lefty who has allowed a .345 AVG / 1.091 OPS vs left-handed bats (30 PA).

- France's 1.026 OPS vs sliders and .867 vs sinkers league-wide line up against the two pitches Bratt has been hit hardest on.
- The form is split – a .375/.418/.663 last 30 days but 0-for-8 in this series with an 11-game HR drought.
- He has been a hard-contact machine of late, with a 23-game hard-hit streak.
- **Broadcast line:** The career-best power year – 1.026 OPS vs sliders, .992 vs changeups league-wide – steps in against a lefty whose slider family and changeup he has feasted on, though he enters 0-for-8 in the series with an 11-game HR drought.

Jackson Merrill – Post-break switch, hottest Padres bat

The 23-year-old center fielder flipped a switch after the All-Star break, and his 1.046 last-14 OPS makes him the most dangerous bat in San Diego's order entering tonight.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
466	.241	.292	.399	.691	16	54	22	6.4%	24.0%

- His 22 stolen bases rank T-9th best in MLB (5th best in the NL), pairing the power with a top-tier run game.
- **The post-break surge is dramatic:** a .219 AVG / .628 OPS first half has become 21-for-62 (.339) with 6 HR since the All-Star break.
- Over the last 30 days he is hitting .326/.356/.547 with 6 HR and 20 RBI across 24 games – the hottest regular in the Padres' order.

Form & Streaks

- **Active heater:** Merrill carries a 4-game hit streak (season best 6) with a 1.046 OPS over the last 14 days, a +.355 jump off his season mark – the biggest positive delta of any heating-up bat in this matchup.
- **Recently homered:** he went deep August 2 vs San Francisco, an active 2-game HR drought, and matched a season-best form with a 3-for-5 (.600) night in his last game; he is 4-for-9 in the series.
- **The mindset shift:** since the break Merrill is 21-for-62 with six homers after watching high-school swing videos before the Kansas City trip and deciding he wanted to be "free and easy, hitting the ball every where" again.
- He is also riding an 18-game hard-hit (95+ mph) streak.

Contact & Mechanics

- Bat speed is at a window-high 73.3 mph (72.2 in 2024, 72.0 in 2025) with swing length up to 7.6 ft, and attack angle has climbed from 8.0° in May to 10.8° in July.
- Pull rate has climbed every year – 29.7% to 31.1% to 33.1% – and he sits at 10.6% barrels with a 46.4% hard-hit rate and 90.0 mph average exit velocity.
- **Chase remains the aggressive part of the profile:** 36.8% this season (after 34.5% in 2024 and 37.7% in 2025) with a 26.7% whiff – the highest chase rate of the profiled Padres regulars, but he is making it count with the current power run.

Splits

- **Strength:** Merrill is a late-game weapon – .333 AVG / 1.035 OPS in late-and-close spots (71 PA), with an .815 OPS with runners in scoring position.
- **Strength:** He has a 1.119 OPS vs sinkers league-wide (61 PA), his best split against any pitch type, and a .854 OPS vs sliders (55 PA).
- **Soft spot:** his .772 OPS vs LHP is middling for a left-handed bat, and he sits at a .642 home / .736 away split – tonight is a road assignment at Chase Field.

Matchup Tonight

No career REG plate appearances vs Mitch Bratt:

- The lefty-vs-lefty matchup tilts in Bratt's favor on the season – Bratt has allowed a .345 AVG / 1.091 OPS vs LHB (30 PA) – but Merrill is the highest-leverage lefty stick in the Padres' order.
- Merrill's 1.119 OPS vs sinkers league-wide (61 PA) lines up against Bratt's 10.0% sinker, a pitch Bratt has allowed a .900 SLG on across 37 pitches this year.
- His .854 OPS vs sliders (55 PA) meets Bratt's slurve (26.8% usage) and slider (12.4%), the swing-and-miss core of the rookie's arsenal.

Storylines

- **"All the way back":** after a first half that left him at .219/.628, Merrill watched high-school swing videos before the Padres' second-half opener in Kansas City and decided to change his mindset – he insists it isn't mechanical – and has since gone 21-for-62 with six homers.
- **Rookie flashes:** the current stretch evokes his 2024 rookie season, when he hit .292/.326/.500, with the Padres leaning on Merrill and Tatis to carry a lineup of aging veterans through the wild-card chase.

What Matters Tonight

The post-break heater (21-for-62, 6 HR; 1.046 last-14 OPS) is the biggest bat in tonight's matchup, up +.355 off his season OPS.

- His 1.119 OPS vs sinkers and .854 vs sliders league-wide target exactly the pitches Bratt leans on, including a sinker that has allowed a .900 SLG.
- The LHB-vs-LHP platoon is the counterweight – Bratt has allowed a .345 AVG / 1.091 OPS to lefties (30 PA).
- He adds the run game at 22 SB (T-9th best MLB) and an 18-game hard-hit streak.
- **Broadcast line:** The breakout bat of the Padres' second half – 1.119 OPS vs sinkers, .854 vs sliders league-wide – steps in hot (4-game hit streak, 6 HR in his last 30) against a lefty who has been hit for a .345 AVG by left-handed bats but whose slider family Merrill already handles.

Xander Bogaerts – Patient anchor in a power drought

The veteran shortstop is grinding through the worst power season of his career, but he remains the most disciplined hitter in the Padres' order and returned from a foot scare to anchor the middle of the lineup.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
432	.225	.319	.326	.646	9	41	16	11.8%	18.3%

- His .326 SLG is the 10th worst in MLB this season and his .646 OPS 9th worst in the NL – the power has cratered after a .440 career slugging mark.
- **The patience remains elite:** a 23.9% chase rate (432 PA) is the lowest of the profiled Padres regulars, with an 11.8% walk rate and 18.3% K rate.
- He still contributes on the bases – 16 SB – and the underlying swing-speed is climbing even as the power output lags.

Form & Streaks

- **Power drought:** Bogaerts has not homered since July 10 at Tor onto, an active 19-game HR drought – but the last week shows signs of life at 7-for-20 (.350) with a .333 second half.
- **Hot finish to the week:** he was 2-for-3 with a walk Tuesday before exiting after fouling a ball off his left foot – X-rays came back negative and he is expected back in tonight's lineup.
- His last-30-day line is a modest .200/.313/.288 with 1 HR and 8 RBI, though he carries a 2-game hit streak (season best 5) and is 3-for-6 in the series.

Contact & Mechanics

- Bat speed has climbed steadily – 70.4 mph (2023) to 72.4 (2026) – accelerating from 71.5 mph in April to 74.5 in July, but the 2026 swing flattened hard: launch angle dropped from 11.1° (2025) to 5.5°, with a barrel rate of just 5.7%. He remains the most disciplined hitter in the group: 23.9% chase and 22.8% whiff across 432 PA, the best patience numbers of the profiled Padres bats.
- The selectivity shows in the counts – he is the No. 9 hitter in the league at .370 after 3-1 counts – even as the flattened path suppresses slugging.

Splits

- **Weakness:** His .626 OPS vs LHP is a real soft spot for tonight, and he struggles most when he falls behind – a .176 AVG / .404 OPS in pitcher-ahead counts across 149 PA.
- **Weakness (matchup-relevant):** Bogaerts owns a .367 OPS vs changeups (34 PA) and .578 vs sliders (45 PA) league-wide – the two secondary pitches Bratt throws most (changeup 8.6%, slurve 26.8%, slider 12.4%).

- **Strength:** His .926 OPS vs cutters (29 PA) is his best pitch-type split, but Bratt does not throw a cutter – the edge doesn't transfer tonight.

Matchup Tonight

No career REG plate appearances vs Mitch Bratt:

- **The pitch-type board is a red flag:** a .367 OPS vs changeups and .578 vs sliders league-wide meet a lefty whose slider family is his swing-and-miss core.
- **Similar-arm LHP history cuts the other way:** Bogaerts is 8-for-19 (.421) career vs Sean Manaea and 4-for-10 (.400, 1 HR) vs Eduardo Rodriguez – lefties with a four-seam-forward mix similar to Bratt's, both squared up.
- His patience (23.9% chase) is the natural counterpoint to Bratt's zone-pounding – 47.0% of his 370 pitches have been in the zone.

Storylines

- **Lineup demotion, then back:** Bogaerts was dropped to the No. 8 spot in late July – his first time batting that low since May 20, 2015 – as Craig Stammen looked to "take the pressure off Bogey," and he is back in the middle of this projected order tonight.
- **Foot scare:** he exited Tuesday's game after fouling a ball off his left foot – a spot he fractured last August – but X-rays were negative and the club expects him to start tonight.
- **Deadline chatter:** the Aug. 3 deadline brought reported discussion of attaching the 11-year, \$280 million deal in a potential Mason Miller trade, even as the club bought instead, adding Casey Mize and Robbie Ray – a move Bogaerts welcomed in the clubhouse. "We're definitely excited to have them... Adding two guys of that caliber definitely boosts everyone in the clubhouse." – Xander Bogaerts · Associated Press · Aug 3, 2026

What Matters Tonight

The lineup's patience anchor (23.9% chase, 11.8% BB%) faces a lefty who pounds the zone – the classic discipline-vs-aggression duel.

- **The matchup board is against him on Bratt's secondary pitches:** .367 OPS vs changeups and .578 vs sliders league-wide.
- His career history against similar LHP peers is strong – .421 vs Manaea, .400 vs E-Rod – even if 2026 form lags.
- He cleared the foot scare (X-rays negative) and has hit .333 in the second half with a 2-game hit streak.
- **Broadcast line:** The most disciplined bat in the Padres' order – 23.9% chase, 11.8% BB% – steps in having hit .333 in the second half against a zone-pounding lefty, but carries a .367 OPS vs changeups and .578 vs sliders into a matchup built on Bratt's slider family.

9. Campusano / Cronenworth / Bowen (SDP)

Luis Campusano – The .924-OPS catcher off a lost 2025

Campusano has gone from a 27-PA 2025 to the engine of the San Diego order, carrying a 12-game on-base streak and elite two-out production into a lefty he has barely seen.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
122	.314	.410	.514	.924	4	16	0	13.1%	23.0%

- **Order engine:** .924 OPS leads the Padres' projected order; his 4 HR and 16 RBI came in just 122 PA, with a 13.1% walk rate and 26.5% chase that rank him among the club's most selective bats.
- **League standout:** No. 2 in MLB hitting .362 with two outs and No. 2 in away on-base percentage (.439) this season.
- **Rebound arc:** 2025 was a lost season (27 PA in 10 games); the 2026 line is a full return off that near-blank.

Form & Streaks

- **On-base machine:** Active 12-game on-base streak (T-#11 MLB) plus a 6-game hit streak, against a season best of 8 games.
- **Steady contact, spiking pop:** L14 line of .317/.404/.366 (0 HR, 5 RBI) shows on-base consistency; the L30 split carries the power – .310/.476 with 3 HR and 12 RBI.
- **Power drought:** 15 games entering tonight (last HR Jul 8 vs ARI); a .912 RISP OPS has kept the run production flowing anyway.

Contact & Mechanics

- **Bat-speed leap:** Bat speed jumped 68.8 mph (2023) to 72.3 mph (2026) – the biggest gain among the profiled Padres – while chase dropped from 35.5% to 26.5%, the club's largest improvement.
- **Steeper, longer path:** Swing length grew 7.59 to 7.9 ft and attack angle steepened 8.1° to 11.0°, pairing a longer swing with a more aggressive plane.
- **Breaker tradeoff:** He whiffs on 37.9% of slider swings yet owns 44.2% hard-hit and a 7.8% barrel – loud contact when he connects.

Splits

- **Strength (two outs):** No. 2 in MLB at .362 with two outs; a .912 OPS with RISP.
- **Strength (road):** Away OPS 1.004 vs .859 at home, including a No. 2 MLB away on-base percentage (.439).
- **Count versatility:** Productive ahead (.390 AVG / 1.090 OPS, 44 PA) and behind (AVG .325 / OPS .960, 50 PA) – no obvious count to attack.
- **Left-handed exposure:** Fewer than 25 PA vs LHP this season, and all 4 of his HR have come vs right-handed pitching – tonight's lefty is a genuine small-sample platoon spot.

Matchup Tonight

No career REG PA vs Mitch Bratt – a first look at the rookie lefty:

- **Squares the sinker:** .910 OPS vs sinkers league-wide (27 PA), his board strongest – against a Bratt sinker that carries a 10.0% usage.
- **Four-seam edge:** .884 OPS vs four-seams (35 PA), his second-best board pitch, against Bratt's most-thrown offering (38.1%).
- **Breaker separator:** Bratt's putaway slurve (26.8% usage, 26.8% whiff) is the swing-and-miss lane; Campusano's near-zero lefty exposure makes that the least-proven side of his night.

Storylines

- **Rebound year:** A 27-PA 2025 (10 games) preceded this breakout – the catcher turned a near-miss season into a .924-OPS campaign.
- **Defensive contrast:** The bat-driven season frames the glove – his -4.9 framing runs and 1.97s pop to second are the soft side of an otherwise complete profile.

What Matters Tonight

Campusano owns .910 OPS vs sinkers and .884 vs four-seams league-wide – the two pitches Bratt throws most (10.0% and 38.1% usage).

- His 12-game on-base streak and No. 2 MLB two-out average (.362) make him the toughest out in the San Diego order tonight.
- All 4 of his HR have come vs righties and he has seen fewer than 25 PA vs lefties – Bratt's slurve is the swing-and-miss test.
- A first career plate appearance against the rookie lefty.

Broadcast line: The .924-OPS catcher enters on a 12-game on-base streak with board-level production against Bratt's two volume pitches, in a first look at the lefty.

Jake Cronenworth – Veteran infielder mired in a power drought

Cronenworth is getting on base again of late but sits on a season-best .288 slugging, with a weak lefty-lefty split that matters against Bratt.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
233	.220	.307	.288	.595	3	17	5	9.4%	21.9%

- **Soft-contact profile:** 4.5% barrel and 32.1% hard-hit on the season; the .288 slugging anchors a .595 OPS near the bottom of the order.
- **On-base without pop:** L14 line of .278/.371/.296 (5 RBI, 0 HR) shows a contact bounce with no power to show for it.
- **Drought context:** 21-game HR drought (last HR Jul 7 vs ARI – a leadoff shot against tonight's opponent).

Form & Streaks

- **HR drought:** 21 games entering tonight (last HR Jul 7 vs ARI); all 3 of his season HR have come vs right-handed pitching.
- **Contact uptick:** L14 .278/.371 (5 RBI) vs a .220/.307 season line – better on-base of late, but a flat .296 SLG in the window.
- **Hot last game:** 3-for-5 (.600) in his most recent outing; 3-for-9 (.333) in the series.

Contact & Mechanics

- **Changeup hole:** .263 OPS vs changeups league-wide (9th worst league, 27 PA) with a 49.1% whiff rate on the pitch – his clear soft spot.
- **Four-seam comfort:** .771 OPS vs four-seams (367 pitches) is his best-vs pitch – Bratt's volume pitch is the one lane he likes.
- **Breaker struggles:** The swinging strikes come vs the breaking stuff – .282 OPS vs sliders and .334 vs sweepers (64/68 pitches) – which is Bratt's putaway lane.

Splits

- **Weakness (lefty-lefty):** .481 OPS vs LHP this season – the left-handed Cronenworth has been the soft side of his own platoon.
- **Weakness (leverage):** .440 OPS Late & Close; .487 home vs .688 away.
- **Cold count:** .146 AVG / .404 OPS after 0-2 counts (51 PA).
- **Modest production:** .697 OPS with RISP and .700 with men on – serviceable, not a bat Arizona needs to fear.

Matchup Tonight

No career REG PA vs Mitch Bratt – first meeting with the rookie lefty:

- **Left-on-left contradiction:** Bratt has been hit by lefties (.345 AVG / 1.091 OPS vs LHB, 30 PA), but Cronenworth's own vs-LHP line is a weak .481 OPS.
- **Sinker soft spot:** .546 OPS vs sinkers league-wide (41 PA) – the board soft spot against Bratt's 10.0%-usage sinker.
- **Four-seam counter:** His best-vs pitch is the four-seam (.771), Bratt's most-thrown (38.1%) – the one lane that favors him.

Storylines

- **Familiar foe:** His last home run – a Jul 7 leadoff shot vs ARI – came against tonight's opponent, his 21-game drought bookended by the same club.
- **Veteran infielder:** 7th MLB season (debut 2020), 83 career REG HR – the power drought leaves him at 3 HR in 233 PA this year.

What Matters Tonight

Cronenworth's .546 OPS vs sinkers is the board soft spot against a Bratt arsenal that throws the sinker 10% of the time.

- **The lefty-lefty matchup cuts both ways:** Bratt's poor numbers vs LHB (.345/1.091) vs Cronenworth's own .481 OPS vs lefties.
- His changeup weakness (.263 OPS, 9th worst league) is Bratt's least-used pitch (8.6%), softening that hole.
- A 21-game HR drought and .288 slugging make him a bottom-of-order contact piece.

Broadcast line: The soft-contact infielder is mired in a 21-game power drought with a weak lefty split, facing a lefty whose sinker and breaker both sit on his soft spots.

Jase Bowen – Rookie with the steepest swing on the club

Bowen's 20.7° attack angle and 43.3% chase make him an all-or-nothing rookie whose first career home run came days ago – off a lefty.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
72	.162	.208	.235	.444	1	6	4	2.8%	36.1%

- **Rookie thinned out:** .444 OPS in 72 PA with a 36.1% strikeout rate and 2.8% walk rate – the lightest projected bat in the Padres order.
- **Loud when connected:** 12.2% barrel and 35.7% hard-hit on a 73.6 mph bat speed; his lone HR came Jul 31 vs SFG.
- **Run-game value:** 4 stolen bases in 72 PA – the speed is the counterweight to the strikeouts.

Form & Streaks

- **Recent bounce:** L14 line of .212/.257/.333 (1 HR, 6 RBI) vs a L30 of .164/.246 – the last two weeks are a mild uptick off a thin season.
- **First career HR:** Jul 31 vs SFG; a 3-game HR drought since.
- **Active hit streak:** 1 game; 1-for-4 (.250) in his last outing and in the series.

Contact & Mechanics

- **Extreme swing:** 20.7° attack angle is the steepest on the club, with an 8.0 ft swing length and 73.6 mph bat speed – an aggressive, power-first plane.

- **Chase-heavy:** 43.3% chase rate with a 36.1% K% – the loosest swing decisions in the San Diego order.
- **Breaker whiff:** In a small sample he whiffs on 61.1% of changeup swings and 45.5% of sweeper swings – the secondary pitches are his swing-and-miss lanes.

Splits

- **Weakness (two strikes):** .057 AVG / .165 OPS with two strikes (37 PA) – he collapses once the count works against him.
- **Weakness (pitcher ahead):** .065 AVG / .129 OPS when the pitcher is ahead (31 PA).
- **Handedness note:** A thin .570 OPS vs LHP sample – he is a right-handed bat facing lefty Bratt.

Matchup Tonight

No career REG PA vs Mitch Bratt – a first MLB look at the rookie lefty:

- **Chase vs zone:** Bratt pounds the zone (47.0% of 370 pitches) and throws a first-pitch strike 58.8% of the time – a poor fit for a 43.3% chase hitter.
- **Punished four-seam:** Bratt's four-seam has been hit hard league-wide (.345 BA / .586 SLG) – the one lane where Bowen's 12.2% barrel rate could play, against a 36.1% K% as the counterweight.

Storylines

- **Debut season:** 1st MLB season, debut 2026; his Jul 31 HR vs SFG was his first career home run (1 career REG HR).
- **Power vs the hand:** That lone HR came off a left-handed pitcher – the same hand Bratt throws tonight.

What Matters Tonight

Bowen's 43.3% chase meets a zone-pounding lefty who throws a first-pitch strike 58.8% of the time.

- His two-strike line (.057/.165, 37 PA) is the softest in the Padres order – a big strikeout risk against Bratt's slurve/slider.
- Bratt's punished four-seam (.345/.586 league-wide) is the lane where Bowen's barrel rate could show.
- No prior look at Bratt; a rookie in his first MLB season.

Broadcast line: The all-or-nothing rookie carries the steepest swing on the club and a 43% chase into a zone-pounding lefty – with a 36.1% K% on the season.

10. Fermin / Sheets / Song (SDP)

Freddy Fermin – Hot catcher off the IL

The Padres' primary catcher turned a brutal first half into a late-summer surge, carrying a four-game hit streak into a first look at a lefty who matches his better platoon side.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
193	.186	.270	.311	.581	4	15	0	8.8%	18.7%

- **First-pitch masher:** AVG .370 / OPS 1.098 on the first pitch (32 PA), one of the club's most aggressive early-swing cells, against a 32.7% chase rate that shows the aggression carries beyond pitch one.
- **Slider soft spot:** .304 OPS vs sliders league-wide (28 PA), the weakest per-type line on his card and the one pitch that's consistently beaten him.
- **The defensive half:** +2.2 framing runs with a 1.89s pop time, the reason he stays in the lineup through the offensive valleys.

Form & Streaks

- **Heating up:** a four-game hit streak (tying his season best) with a home run Aug 1 vs SFG (3 RBI) and a 2-for-5, 1-RBI night Aug 4 vs ARI; he's 8-for-22 (.364) across his last seven appearances.
- **Slow-burn season:** opened as the everyday catcher and bottomed out near a .424 OPS in late May before the mid-June breakthrough, then rebuilt to the .581 mark while driving in 15 runs in just 193 PA.

Contact & Mechanics

- **Contact-over-power shape:** 4.4% barrel rate with a 27.7% hard-hit% and 87.3 mph average EV, among the softest contact profiles in the order, and a 104.7 mph max EV that caps the ceiling.
- **Steep but slow:** a 13.0° attack angle on a 69.9 mph bat speed, the swing getting under pitches without the bat speed a steep path needs, which explains the .311 SLG.
- **Chase over whiff:** 32.7% chase (193 PA) against an 18.7% K%, expanding often but not missing at a damaging rate.

Splits

- **Strength, vs LHP:** .217/.280/.413 with a .693 OPS (51 PA) and 2 of his 4 homers against lefties, by far the better side of his platoon, and tonight's starter is a lefty.
- **Weakness, with RISP:** .441 OPS with runners in scoring position, the softest clutch cell in the San Diego order and the reason his RBI total sits at just 15.

Matchup Tonight

No career REG PA vs Mitch Bratt, a first look at the rookie lefty:

- **Slurve and slider collision:** Bratt's putaway is the slurve (26.8% usage, 80.1 mph, 26.8% whiff) with a slider (12.4%, 28.6% whiff) behind it, and Fermin's league-wide soft spot is the slider (.304 OPS, 28 PA).
- **First-pitch duel:** Fermin swings early (.370 AVG on pitch one, 32 PA) into Bratt's 58.8% first-pitch strike rate (57 of 97 first pitches), the aggression meeting the strike-throwing.

Storylines

- "Special. Outside the field, in the field. I learned a lot from him. – Freddy Fermin, on Salvador Perez · MLB.com · Jul 19, 2026
- **Royals homecoming:** activated from the IL (head contusion) in mid-July just in time to return to Kauffman Stadium for a warm ovation July 19, delivering a leadoff double in the fifth.
 - **The starting job:** acquired from Kansas City at last season's deadline for Stephen Kolek and Ryan Bergert, Fermin won his first career starting-catcher role in 2026, a job manager Craig Stammen has publicly backed through the rough patches.

What Matters Tonight

Fermin's better platoon side (.693 OPS vs LHP) lines up with Bratt's left-handed delivery, while his RISP hole (.441) and slider soft spot (.304, 28 PA) are the counterweights.

- He's the hot half of the catching rotation, four-game hit streak and an Aug 1 homer, after a season spent climbing out of a first-half crater.
- Behind the plate he's a plus (+2.2 framing, 1.89s pop) on a staff that leans on its defense.
- **Broadcast line:** Fermin brings a four-game hit streak and his lefty-side splits into a first look at Bratt, with the slider the one pitch that's beaten him all year.

Gavin Sheets – RISP engine hitting a lefty wall

San Diego's big left-handed run producer is mired in a 27-game home-run drought and a two-week slide, and tonight's lefty starter matches the one platoon that's suppressed him all season.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
365	.215 (7th worst NL)	.315	.396	.711	14	43	4	11.8%	20.8%

- **RISP engine:** .998 OPS with runners in scoring position (83 PA) at a .314 AVG in the spot, with a first-pitch tear (AVG .357 / OPS 1.058, 29 PA) alongside it.
- **The lefty wall:** .483 OPS vs LHP (67 PA) with zero homers, the club's toughest lefty matchup, and Bratt is a lefty.
- **Changeup is the soft spot:** .483 OPS vs changeups league-wide (58 PA), while his strongest per-type line is vs the slider (.825).

Form & Streaks

- **Power drought:** 27 games without a homer (T-82nd longest active in MLB), last going deep June 30 vs CHC, plus a 25-game extra-base-hit drought (T-6th longest in MLB), the longest power vacuum of his season.
- **Cooling window:** .503 OPS over the last 14 days (28 PA), 4-for-21 with three walks in that stretch and well under his .711 season mark.
- **Identity intact:** still aggressive early (.357 AVG on pitch one) even as the power has gone quiet.

Contact & Mechanics

- **Long, powerful swing:** 7.7 ft swing length (T-9th longest in the NL) at 74.4 mph bat speed, the length that drives a 110.1 mph max EV and 14 homers but also makes the contact streaky.
- **Barrel depth down:** 6.6% barrel rate with a 39.7% hard-hit% and 87.6 mph average EV, the contact quality holding while the barrel share lags his power profile.
- **Discipline is the anchor:** a 20.8% K% and 11.8% walk rate against a 30.8% chase, controlling the zone even when the results don't follow.

Splits

- **Strength, vs RHP:** .224/.329/.435 with a .764 OPS (298 PA) and all 14 of his homers against right-handers, the side he's built his season on.
- **Weakness, vs LHP:** .180/.254/.230 with a .483 OPS (67 PA) and zero homers, the platoon wall tonight's lefty hits. Last season he lifted his career line vs lefties to .255/.670, but 2026 has slid back.

Matchup Tonight

No career REG PA vs Mitch Bratt, a first look at the rookie lefty:

- **Platoon collision:** Sheets owns a .483 OPS vs LHP (67 PA, 0 HR) against a starter who has allowed left-handed bats a .345 AVG / 1.091 OPS in 30 PA, two trends that cut against each other.
- **Pitch-type picture:** Sheets is at .483 OPS vs changeups league-wide (58 PA), and Bratt mixes a changeup (8.6% usage) into a six-pitch arsenal, while his strongest pitch, the slider (.825 OPS league-wide), is a Bratt pitch at just 12.4% usage.
- **Fastball punishment:** Bratt's four-seam (38.1% usage) has been hit for a .345 BA / .586 SLG this season, the volume pitch of a starter whose putaway is the slurve (26.8% usage, 26.8% whiff).

Storylines

- **Clubhouse connector:** manager Craig Stammen calls Sheets "a connector," the veteran who keeps the room together, a theme teammates and coaches echoed through a season where the offense has leaned on him.
- **Clutch history:** Sheets has gone deep in the ninth inning or later on go-ahead swings multiple times this season, including a walk-off vs Colorado on Apr 10 and a two-homer day at Seattle on May 17, a late-game track record that stands even amid the current drought.
- **The everyday fight:** a non-roster invitee who slugged his way to the roster last spring, Sheets is competing for at-bats in a deep 1B/DH picture, with his 11.8% walk rate and .998 RISP OPS as his arguments.

What Matters Tonight

Sheets' season engine is RISP (.998 OPS, 83 PA), but tonight's lefty starter matches his worst platoon (.483 vs LHP, 0 HR in 67 PA).

- He's riding a 27-game HR drought and a 25-game XBH drought, the longest power vacuum of his season.
- Bratt's putaway is the slurve (26.8% usage) while Sheets' strongest per-type line is vs the slider (.825 league-wide), a collision of strengths at low usage.
- **Broadcast line:** Sheets carries the club's best RISP numbers into the one matchup that's suppressed him all year, a 27-game homer drought against a lefty.

Sung-Mun Song – Patient rookie speed off the bench

The rookie lefty stick is a patient, steal-first utility piece with a .918 OPS with runners in scoring position, but he faces a lefty in tonight's starter after seeing almost no left-handed pitching all season.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
124	.208	.311	.274	.585	1	15	11	12.9%	18.5%

- **RISP production:** .918 OPS with runners in scoring position and a .630 Men On line, making his 15 RBI pop despite the .585 overall OPS.
- **Run game:** 11 stolen bases in 54 games (124 PA), a top-of-scale speed profile for a bench piece.
- **Two-strike collapse:** .127 AVG / .340 OPS with two strikes (61 PA) and .063 AVG with the pitcher ahead (33 PA), the swing that dies as counts deepen.

Form & Streaks

- **20-game HR drought** (T-135th longest active in MLB), without a homer since July 1 vs CHC, the only long ball of his career.

- **Scattered at-bats:** part-time usage has him 1-for-14 with three walks over the last two weeks, the on-base work holding while the hits go missing, and 1-for-3 in the current series vs Arizona.
- **Speed shows in spurts:** 11 steals on a 54-game resume with a 23.8% chase rate, the tightest of these three Padres bats.

Contact & Mechanics

- **No-power, on-base profile:** a 4.7% barrel rate, 24.7% hard-hit% and 86.8 mph average EV, the softest-contact profile in the order, with a 110.4 mph max EV as the one power flash on the card.
- **Patience over thump:** a 12.9% walk rate against an 18.5% K% with a 23.8% chase, the most disciplined of the three profiled Padres tonight, but the .274 SLG shows what that discipline buys.

Splits

- **Strength, with RISP:** .918 OPS with runners in scoring position, his one standout situational cell and the driver of a 15-RBI total in just 124 PA.
- **Weakness, two strikes:** .127 AVG / .340 OPS with two strikes (61 PA) and .063 AVG with the pitcher ahead (33 PA), the bottom-of-order counterweight to his patience.
- **Lefty exposure:** just 11 PA vs LHP all season, with nearly all of his at-bats against right-handers (.217/.321/.289 in 113 PA), making tonight's lefty a matchup he's barely seen.

Matchup Tonight

No career REG PA vs Mitch Bratt, a first look at the rookie lefty:

- **Two-strikes vs the slurve:** Song's .340 OPS with two strikes (61 PA) meets Bratt's two-strike putaway, the slurve (26.8% usage, 26.8% whiff), the count where Song's swing has gone quiet all year.
- **Speed vs the strike-thrower:** Song's 11 steals and tight chase (23.8%) are the counterweight to Bratt's 58.8% first-pitch strike rate, patient on-base work against a pitcher who pounds the zone early.

Storylines

- **Stateside debut:** Song made his MLB debut in 2026 after arriving from overseas play, a rookie (debut 2026) whose speed and plate discipline earned him a utility role in San Diego.
- **Role player:** a bench bat whose .918 RISP OPS and 11 steals are the reasons he's in the mix, not power but a contact, on-base and speed package off the bench.

What Matters Tonight

Song's patient profile (12.9% BB%, 23.8% chase) is the natural foil to a rookie lefty who pounds the zone early.

- The two-strike collapse (.340 OPS, 61 PA) and just 11 career PA vs LHP are the counterweights in a lefty-on-lefty spot.
- His RISP production (.918) is the one way he changes a game from the bottom of the order.
- **Broadcast line:** Song's speed and patience give him an on-base path against Bratt, but a two-strike wall and near-total lefty inexperience are the limits.

11. Workman (SDP)

Gage Workman – All-or-nothing rookie lefty bat

The Padres' rookie utility man is playing on a tiny sample defined by extreme swings: six hits this season, two of them home runs, with no walks drawn and a strikeout rate near the top of the league.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
40	.158	.158	.395	.553	2	5	0	0.0%	42.5%

- **Power-or-nothing shape:** 2 of his 6 hits on the season are home runs, yet he has 16 strikeouts and 0 walks in 40 PA – a batting line where AVG and OBP are identical (.158) because he has not reached base once via ball four.
- **Small-sample pop:** the limited Statcast look (40 PA, under the 50-PA stability floor) shows a 94.0 mph average exit velocity and a 21.7% barrel rate – the raw power is real, just attached to an extremely low-contact approach.
- **Career baseline:** 2 career REG HR and 7 RBI in 29 games, both long balls coming in 2026 – the power has not translated into volume yet.

Form & Streaks

- **Dual droughts:** Workman carries a 13-game HR drought and a matching 13-game RBI drought (consecutive games with a plate appearance) into tonight – his last long ball came May 14 at New York, where he went 2-for-4 with a HR and 3 RBI, easily his best game of the year.
- **Quiet since the breakout:** no active hit streak (season best is 4) and he was 0-for-2 with a strikeout in the series opener at Arizona on Aug. 4 – his season has compressed into a handful of hits against a wall of whiffs.
- **Playing time is thin:** the game log shows spot duty all year – a run of pinch-hit and one-at-bat appearances bookended by the occasional start, which keeps the counting sample minuscule.

Contact & Mechanics

- **Extreme aggression:** the 42.5% chase rate and 42.5% K rate (40 PA) paint a hitter expanding early and often – the small sample carries no peer rank, but the shape is unmistakably a swing-everything profile.
- **Power in a tiny package:** 94.0 mph average exit velocity with a 21.7% barrel rate against a .158 average is the classic all-or-nothing split – when he barrels one up, it leaves; most of the time he is not putting the ball in play.
- **No walks, no patience:** 0 walks in 40 PA means opposing pitchers can challenge him in the zone – and the whiff rate shows they have been winning that exchange.

Splits

- **Lefty-on-lefty, no book:** Workman has no platoon split at 25+ PA on the season (under 40 PA total), so there is no printed vs-LHP edge to lean on against Bratt – the whole plate-discipline profile is a weakness right now.
- **Soft situational spots:** his with-RISP OPS sits at .625 on a sample too small to carry a tendency – the reliable beats are the counting lines: 5 RBI, 2 HR, 0 BB.

Matchup Tonight

- No career REG PA vs Mitch Bratt – a first look at the rookie lefty for the rookie lefty bat.
- **Same-side battle:** Workman hits left-handed against Bratt's left-handed delivery, erasing any platoon advantage – and Bratt's four-seam fastball (38.1% usage, 91.6 mph) has been hit hard all year (.345 BA / .586 SLG against, 9.9% whiff).
- **Zone conflict:** Bratt works ahead (58.8% first-pitch strikes, 47.0% of pitches in the zone) against the most chase-prone, zero-walk bat in the Padres order – a free-swinging meeting a strike-thrower.

- **Two-strike putaways:** Bratt's slurve (26.8% usage, 26.8% whiff) and slider (28.6% whiff) are his swing-and-miss pitches, and Workman's 16 strikeouts in 38 at-bats is the exact profile those breakers target.

Storylines

- **Rookie arc:** Workman is in his second MLB season (debut 2025) and the Padres have used him as a flexible left-handed option off the bench and in spot starts, with the counting line still catching up to a raw power tool.

What Matters Tonight

A .158/.158/.395 hitter meets a starter throwing a career-high 6.68 BB/9 – but Workman has not drawn a walk in 40 PA, so the free bases likely stay untouched.

- Bratt's punished four-seam (.586 SLG against) is the one pitch the all-or-nothing bat could square, if he connects.
- The 13-game HR drought and 13-game RBI drought frame tonight as a swing-and-miss watch against a slurve-heavy two-strike mix.
- **Broadcast line:** A 40-PA rookie whose two hits that left the yard are his whole power story, facing a fellow rookie whose heater gets hit but whose slurve gets whiffs.

12. Nootbaar / Carroll / Perdomo (ARI)

Lars Nootbaar – Fresh start, elite eye

The league's most selective swing in his first week as a Diamondback, acquired at the deadline after heel surgery cost him the first two months of the season.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
187	.234	.333	.354	.688	3	16 (8th worst league)	1	13.9%	21.4%

- **Selectivity edge:** An 18.3% chase rate is 3rd best in MLB, and the 13.9% walk rate (17th best MLB) pairs with a 21.4% K rate to make Nootbaar the hardest plate to expand against in this order.
- **Contact behind the patience:** A 50.4% hard-hit rate (8th best NL) and 9.1% barrel rate show the juice is still there, but the payoff has been limited – 3 HR and a .354 SLG (9th worst NL) in 187 PA.
- **Swing-for-contact profile:** Bat speed sits at 72.9 mph with a shortened 6.8 ft swing and a span-low 7.7° attack angle, traded for a 9.1% barrel rate on the season.

Form & Streaks

- **Cooling in the desert:** Last-14 OPS of .512 sits .176 below his season mark (41 PA) – the coldest window among the profiled ARI regulars.
- **Power drought:** An 18-game HR drought since July 11 vs ATL, with 3 HR on the season; the last-14 slump is mostly a hit-rate issue, not strikeouts.
- **Debut line:** Made his Arizona debut Aug 4 as the DH, going 0-for-2 with two walks – 0-for-2 in this series entering tonight.

Contact & Mechanics

- **The most selective swing on the club:** Chase 18.3% in 2026, back down after a 22.0% outlier in 2025, with whiff rate 14th best NL – he swings at strikes and lets balls go.
- **Shorter, flatter path:** Attack angle dropped from 9.1° (2023) to 7.7° (2026) while swing length shortened to 6.8 ft, and exit velocity rose from 88.8 mph to 91.7 mph over the same span.
- **Fastball damage:** League-wide, his best contact comes against four-seamers – .869 OPS with a 96.7 mph avg EV and an 18.0° launch angle on that pitch type (224 pitches).

Splits

- **Strength vs lefties, but tonight is a righty:** A .489 OBP vs LHP starters is #1 in MLB with a 1.018 OPS (7th best MLB) – the platoon edge he owns plays against lefties, not against Mize's right-handed delivery.
- **Weakness:** His .688 season OPS is the softest full-season line of the six profiled regulars, and the road split (.537 OPS) is well below his home mark (.835).
- **With RISP / late:** A .689 OPS with RISP and a .530 late-and-close mark are both below the season line – the on-base skills haven't translated into run-producing spots.

Matchup Tonight

No career REG PA vs Casey Mize – a first look for both sides:

- **Changeup soft spot:** A .353 OPS vs changeups league-wide (33 PA) is the clearest hole on the card, and Mize's splitter – his 23.7%-usage two-strike putaway at a 34.5% whiff rate – is the same offspeed family he has struggled to pick up.
- **Four-seam strength:** His best pitch-type OPS is .869 vs four-seamers league-wide (224 pitches), the pitch Mize throws most (34.4% usage, 93.5 mph).
- **Slider below the line:** A .569 OPS vs sliders league-wide (100 pitches) is the other soft cell against Mize's 26.2%-usage slider.
- **Similar-arm look:** Career REG vs Hunter Greene (same-hand four-seam/slider profile) is 1-for-11 (.091) with 5 K – the one peer comp that mirrors this mix has owned him.

Storylines

- **Deadline deal:** Acquired from St. Louis on Aug 3 for RHP Daniel Eagen, LHP Sandro Santana and a player to be named later, with the club betting on his on-base skills to help a lineup that has "struggled to hit righties," per GM Mike Hazen.
- **Health return:** Surgery on both heels last offseason pushed his 2026 debut to June 5, and he's still working back to form after playing just 48 games for the Cardinals.
- **Reunion:** Rejoined best friend Nolan Arenado – the two played six seasons together in St. Louis, and the 8th-round 2018 pick was part of the 2022 division winner alongside Pujols, Wainwright and Molina.

"I have said it before, and I will continue to say it: I don't think there could have been a better spot for me. – Lars Nootbaar · AZFamily · Aug 4, 2026

What Matters Tonight

Mize pounds the zone (66.0% first-pitch strikes, 49.3% zone rate) against the most selective swing in the league (18.3% chase, 3rd best MLB) – a patient-vs-strike-throwing standoff.

- Nootbaar's league-wide four-seam OPS (.869) faces Mize's most-used pitch, while his .353 changeup OPS (33 PA) lines up against Mize's splitter putaway.
- Making his Chase Field home debut for a Wild Card contender that trails San Diego by a game in the standings entering the night.
- **Broadcast line:** Elite chase discipline against an in-zone starter, with his biggest hole (offspeed) matching Mize's best putaway pitch.

Corbin Carroll – Slider masher on a milestone march

The 2023 Rookie of the Year is 2 homers shy of 100 career, carrying a career-arc power spike into a matchup where Mize's top secondary is his favorite pitch to hit.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
478	.242	.337	.469	.805	16	52	15	11.5%	22.8%

- **Slider damage:** A 1.072 OPS vs sliders league-wide (66 PA) is the strongest pitch-type cell on the club, with a 92.8 mph avg EV and 12.0° launch angle on that pitch – exactly the secondary Mize leans on 26.2% of the time.
- **Power-and-speed year:** 16 HR and 15 SB with a 12.2% barrel rate, 91.9 mph EV and 75.5 mph bat speed (9th fastest NL) – the loudest all-around profile in Arizona's order.
- **Left-on-left edge:** A 1.225 OPS vs LHP starters is #1 in MLB and .344 AVG vs LHP as a LHB ranks 2nd – though tonight's Mize is a right-hander.

Form & Streaks

- **Quiet at the plate lately:** A .717 OPS over the last 14 days (63 PA) is .088 below his season line, and he's 0-for-9 in this series (0-for-4 last game).
- **Short power drought:** Three games since his last HR (Aug 1 vs CLE) – a blip, not a slump, after a 13-game season-best hit streak earlier in the year.
- **Milestone in reach:** 98 career REG HR, two away from 100 – Monte Irvin (99) is the next name above him on the ARI franchise list.

Contact & Mechanics

- **Career-arc spike:** Bat speed has climbed every season, 73.3 mph (2023) → 75.5 (2026), while attack angle jumped from 5.5° to 10.6° and barrel rate rose from 7.6% to 12.2% – the swing is faster and steeper than the one that broke through in 2023.
- **Flatter after the break:** Attack angle dropped from 11.4° (Apr-Jun) to 9.2° (Jul-Aug) with bat speed essentially flat (75.6 vs 75.4 mph) – a post-break flattening that tracks the recent power lull.
- **Hard-contact engine:** A 49.4% hard-hit rate and 91.9 mph avg EV keep him dangerous even when the average sits at .242.

Splits

- **Strength:** A 1.440 OPS on 1-0 counts (25 PA) and a .905 home OPS – Chase Field has been the friendliest park on his card.
- **Soft spots:** A .717 OPS vs right-handed pitching (Mize's hand) trails his .805 overall, and his weakest printed opponent split is .200 AVG vs LAD.
- **Clutch:** A .837 OPS with RISP and .865 late-and-close are both above his season line – the on-base-to-power conversion holds up in leverage spots.

Matchup Tonight

- **BvP:** 2-for-4 (.500) in 5 PA vs Casey Mize with a walk and a strikeout – one of the few ARI bats with real career history against him.
- **Slider edge:** His 1.072 OPS vs sliders league-wide (66 PA) directly opposes Mize's 26.2%-usage slider, the clear head-to-head where Carroll has the physical edge.
- **Sinker too:** A .900 OPS vs sinkers (68 PA) is another plus cell against Mize's 10.7% sinker.
- **The one hole:** A .382 OPS vs splitters league-wide (85 pitches) is the soft spot, and Mize's putaway is a 23.7%-usage splitter at a 34.5% whiff rate – the same pitch that has held him quiet in similar-arm looks.
- **Similar-arm 2026:** 3-for-6 (.500) vs Andre Pallante this season, but 1-for-8 (.125) with 4 K vs Emmet Sheehan – the peer looks have split both ways.

Storylines

- **Milestone chase:** 2 away from 100 career REG HR, with Matt Williams (99) the next franchise name above him on the all-time list – a natural broadcast thread every time he comes up.
- **Draft pedigree:** A Seattle native and the 16th overall pick in 2019, Carroll is Arizona's homegrown franchise centerpiece now playing right field at a +9 OAA clip (1st best among RF, 16th MLB).
- **Deadline backdrop:** He's part of a club that publicly lobbied the front office to add starting pitching at the deadline, with teammate Geraldo Perdomo asking GM Mike Hazen for two starters and two bats.

What Matters Tonight

Carroll's 1.072 OPS vs sliders (66 PA) is the single biggest pitch-level edge in this lineup against Mize's slider (26.2% usage), while his .382 splitter OPS is the counterweight against Mize's 23.7% putaway splitter.

- Mize has held lefties to a .194 AVG / .507 OPS (193 PA) this season – the split that cuts against Carroll's left-handed swing.
- Two homers from 100 career REG HR, with a career-high 16 HR already on the year.
- **Broadcast line:** A slider-crushing lefty bat against Mize's slider-first mix, with a 2-for-4 career BvP mark and a 100-HR milestone two swings away.

Geraldo Perdomo – Contact king, offspeed target

The switch-hitting shortstop pairs a top-tier walk rate with the quietest bat speed in the league, an OBP-first profile whose only real hole is the offspeed pitch Mize throws most with two strikes.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
476	.245	.361	.370	.731	9	41	17	14.7% (8th best league)	12.0% (9th best league)

- **Elite discipline:** A 14.7% walk rate (8th best MLB) with a 12.0% K rate (9th best MLB), a 20.8% chase rate (4th best NL) and the 5th-best whiff rate in MLB – he rarely expands or misses.
- **No power behind it:** A 3.5% barrel rate (10th worst NL), 29.4% hard-hit (9th worst NL) and 67.0 mph bat speed (4th slowest league) cap his slugging at .370.
- **Run game:** 17 SB with a 14.7% walk rate makes him one of the highest-volume on-base-and-steal threats in the order.

Form & Streaks

- **Active hit streak:** Five straight games with a hit (season best 7), including 4-for-7 (.571) in this series and 2-for-4 last game.
- **Heating up:** A .835 OPS over the last 14 days sits well above his .731 season mark.

- **Power drought:** Three games since his last HR (Aug 1 vs CLE) – his 9 HR on the year come in bunches, all but one against right-handed pitching.
- **Contact & Mechanics**
- **The slowest bat on the board:** 67.0 mph (4th slowest league) with a compact 7.0 ft swing – he's a hit-the-ball-early contact guy, not a bat-speed play, and the 29.4% hard-hit rate (9th worst NL) reflects it.
- **Discipline over damage:** The 5th-best whiff rate in MLB and 4th-best chase rate in the NL are the identity – he puts the ball in play and lets the walk game build the line.
- **First-pitch aggression:** A .379 AVG / 1.042 OPS on the first pitch of an at-bat (33 PA) is a real hot cell – he ambushes strikes before counts get deep.

- **Splits**
- **Strength:** A 14.7% walk rate and a 12.0% K rate are both top-10 MLB marks, and the .758 OPS vs right-handed pitching (Mize's hand) beats his season line.
- **Weakness:** A .581 OPS with RISP is the softest run-producing split on the club, and a 1-0 count line of .167 AVG / .408 OPS (26 PA) is the cold count cell.
- **Road lean:** A .782 away OPS versus .672 at home, though tonight's Chase Field home split is the fuller sample.

- **Matchup Tonight**
- **BvP:** 1-for-3 (.333) in 5 PA vs Casey Mize with an RBI and a walk – a clean prior look.
- **Offspeed hole:** A .231 OPS vs splitters league-wide (73 pitches) is the biggest soft spot on his card, and Mize's 23.7%-usage splitter is the two-strike putaway (45% on 0-2) that fits the hole.
- **Slider mid-pack:** A .691 OPS vs sliders league-wide (220 pitches) is roughly neutral against Mize's 26.2% slider, and a .658 OPS vs sinkers sits against his 10.7% sinker.
- **Similar-arm 2026:** 1-for-7 (.143) with 2 K vs Emmet Sheehan and 0-for-5 vs Andre Pallante – the peer arms that threw like Mize have kept him under .200 combined.

- **Storylines**
- **Deadline voice:** Perdomo told reporters on the club's last road trip he wanted the front office to add two starting pitchers and two bats, a request he made directly to GM Mike Hazen at the deadline – a public stake in the Wild Card push.
- **Elite glove:** A +9 OAA at shortstop (8th best among SS, 17th MLB) anchors a defense that ranks +18 DRS as a unit.
- **Switch-hitter edge:** Hitting from the right side against Mize tonight, he brings a 17-SB run game to the top of the order alongside Carroll.

- **What Matters Tonight**
- Perdomo's .231 splitter OPS (73 pitches) is the precise hole Mize's 23.7%-usage splitter (34.5% whiff) targets with two strikes, while his top-5-MLB whiff rate makes him the toughest out in the lineup otherwise.
- His 14.7% walk rate (8th best MLB) is the counter to Mize's 66.0% first-pitch strike rate – a battle of patience against in-zone volume.
- 1-for-3 career vs Mize, 17 SB, and a five-game hit streak entering a Wild Card matchup one game apart in the standings.
- **Broadcast line:** An elite-contact, high-walk shortstop whose only clear hole is the splitter – which happens to be Mize's two-strike putaway.

13. Moreno / Tawa / Vargas (ARI)

Gabriel Moreno – Back from paternity leave, DHing tonight

The catcher returned to the lineup tonight after two days on the paternity list, batting fourth as Arizona's designated hitter against a right-hander whose pitch mix lines up with both his biggest strength and his one soft spot.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
350	.298	.380	.438	.818	8	47	4	11.4%	14.9%

- The .298/.380/.438 slash is a top-shelf catcher line, built on an 11.4% walk rate against just 14.9% strikeouts, and he is hitting .308 vs right-handed pitching this season.
- He reached base in 40 straight starts through late July – passing Jay Bell's 39 for the second-longest on-base streak in franchise history – then went 0-for-10 in his final two games before the paternity leave.

- **Form & Streaks**
- **HR drought 3:** last home run July 29 at Pittsburgh; no active hit streak (season best 11).
- **Hot then cold:** hit .421 (24-for-57) with four doubles and eight RBI over a 15-game stretch into late July, then 0-for-10 across Aug 1-2 at Cleveland before two days off on the paternity list.
- **Back in the lineup:** in the DH spot tonight after missing Aug 3-4 with the birth of his daughter.

- **Contact & Mechanics**
- **Barrel surge:** barrel rate has doubled from 4.8% (2023) to 7.5% (2026) while bat speed ticked up 70.3 → 71.5 mph; exit velocity is actually down slightly, 89.8 → 89.2 mph.
- **Discipline trade-off:** chase rate jumped from 21.6% (2024) to 30.7% (2026) – the input cost behind the .298/.380 on-base line.
- **Post-break flattening:** attack angle dropped 9.7° (Apr-Jun) to 8.0° (Jul-Aug), paired with a 42.1% hard-hit rate and a 110.9 mph max exit velo.

- **Splits**
- **Strength:** .839 OPS vs RHP (vs .818 overall), with Men On .892 and a big Away edge (.879 vs .740 at home).
- **Strength:** printed #1 in MLB at .453 opp-field AVG vs RHP and #1 pitcher-ahead AVG at .336 – he does damage when the pitcher is ahead (130 PA).
- **Weakness:** 30.7% chase is a clear jump off his 21.6% low in 2024.

- **Matchup Tonight**
- **BvP:** 1-for-3 (3 PA) career REG vs Mize.
- **Pitch-type:** 1.094 OPS vs sinkers league-wide (75 PA) and .959 vs four-seams (96 PA) – Mize's four-seam (34.4% usage) is his volume pitch, and the sinker (10.7%) rounds out the mix.
- **The soft spot:** .629 OPS vs sliders (26 PA) – and Mize's slider (26.2% usage, 87.7 mph, 27.7% whiff) is his No. 2 weapon.
- **Similar-arm look:** vs Emmet Sheehan (RHP, slider/four-seam peer) in 2026 REG he went 2-for-6 (.333) – and the slider was hit 2 of 2 against him.

- **Count clash:** Moreno is a printed #1 pitcher-ahead hitter (.336 AVG) against a starter who throws 66.0% first-pitch strikes and 56.0% zone on 0-0.

Storylines

- **Paternity Return:** back on the paternity list only two days after the birth of daughter Gianna, in the lineup as the DH against the Padres.
- **On-Base Run:** the 40-straight-start on-base streak passed Jay Bell's 39 for second-longest in franchise history.

"Everybody's good, my wife's good. My baby girl is good at home. – Gabriel Moreno · Arizona Republic · Aug 5, 2026

What Matters Tonight

Right-handed bat vs Mize's .237/.708 RHB split (148 PA).

- His two best pitch-type OPS marks (sinker 1.094, four-seam .959) sit against Mize's volume pitch, while his slider soft spot (26 PA) is Mize's putaway-adjacent secondary.
- Back in the middle of the order after two hitless games and two days off.

Broadcast line: A .298/.380/.438 catcher with a printed #1 pitcher-ahead AVG, back from paternity leave and DHing against a righty whose four-seam/slider core meets his strongest and weakest pitch-type splits.

Tim Tawa – Grand slam history against these Padres

The first-base option carries a Mexico City grand slam off San Diego on his card, but his season is defined by a sinker-mashing profile set against a hard two-strike weakness.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
166	.218	.273	.374	.647	5	24	2	7.2%	21.1%

- The .218/.273/.374 slash is modest, but the power shows in flashes – 12 career home runs in 131 games, including the April 26 grand slam that turned the Mexico City series.
- He is one half of Arizona's first-base solution with Ildemaro Vargas after the club DFA'd both Pavin Smith and Carlos Santana.

Form & Streaks

- **HR drought 1:** homered Aug 3 vs San Diego and is 3-for-8 (.375, 1 HR) against the Padres in this series entering tonight.
- Active 19-game hard-hit (≥95 mph) streak – he is squaring up the baseball even when the hits do not fall.
- **Snapped an 0-for-21 skid** on Aug 2 at Cleveland, then followed with the 3-for-4, three-RBI night vs SDP on Aug 3.

Contact & Mechanics

- **Power barrel:** 7.7% barrel rate with a 40.3% hard-hit mark and 89.2 avg exit velo on a 74.1 mph bat speed and 10.0° attack angle (166 PA).
- **Raw output:** his grand slam left the bat at 100.1 mph – the power plays when he gets the barrel out front.
- **Aggressive input:** 30.8% chase rate fits a swing-first approach, and his two-strike line shows the cost.

Splits

- **Strength:** 1.007 OPS vs sinkers league-wide (37 PA) – the pitch he crushes.
- **Weakness:** .471 OPS vs sliders (26 PA) and .476 vs four-seams (44 PA) – both below .500.
- **Weakness:** Two Strikes .127 AVG / .407 OPS (88 PA) and Pitcher Ahead AVG .170 / OPS .412 (56 PA) – he struggles when the count turns against him.
- vs RHP .708 vs season .647; Home .727 vs Away .586.

Matchup Tonight

- **BvP:** no career REG PA vs Mize.
- **The pitch clash:** his best pitch-type is sinkers (1.007 OPS, 37 PA) – Mize's least-used pitch at 10.7% – while his two worst are sliders (.471, 26 PA) and four-seams (.476, 44 PA), which are exactly Mize's top two (34.4% and 26.2%).
- **Two-strike danger:** Mize's splitter putaway (45% usage on 0-2, 34.5% whiff) and ahead-count slider sit against a hitter who is .127 with two strikes this season (88 PA).
- **Memory lane:** his April 26 grand slam vs San Diego came off a 97.2 mph sinker from the bullpen.

Storylines

- **Grand Slam vs SDP:** April 26 in Mexico City, a 100.1 mph grand slam off a 97.2 mph sinker to key a six-run rally.
- **Bunt Controversy:** on Aug 2 he tried to bunt on Gavin Williams' perfect-game bid, drawing Cleveland's ire; he lined a single on the next pitch.

"I understand the unwritten rules of baseball and that's a thing. And at the same time, I'm just trying to get on base and help the team and gain some momentum. – Tim Tawa · AP · Aug 2, 2026

What Matters Tonight

Right-handed bat vs Mize's .237/.708 RHB split (148 PA).

- His power pitch (sinker, 1.007 OPS) is Mize's least-used, while his soft spots (slider, four-seam) are Mize's two volume pitches.
- 3-for-8 with a home run against San Diego in this series entering tonight.

Broadcast line: A sinker-mashing first baseman whose two pitch-type soft spots are the exact two pitches Casey Mize leans on, with a two-strike cold zone against Mize's splitter putaway.

Ildemaro Vargas – Flattest swing, four RBI from 200

The switch-hitting utility infielder carries the longest home-run drought on the club and sits four RBI shy of 200 for his career, with the flattest attack angle on Arizona's roster.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
349	.272	.317	.404	.721	7	51	2	5.7%	9.7%

- A .272/.317/.404 slash with 51 RBI in 349 PA, built on a 9.7% strikeout rate – one of the surest contact profiles on the roster.

- He is a first-base regular now after the club DFA'd both Pavin Smith and Carlos Santana, sharing the spot with Tim Tawa.

Form & Streaks

- **HR drought 59 (8th best of 653):** last home run May 12 vs Texas – the longest active drought on the Diamondbacks.
- **Early-season heater:** ran a 24-game hitting streak earlier this year that was MLB-leading at the time, per the club.
- **Count heat:** a .375 AVG / 1.193 OPS in 1-0 counts (26 PA), though the last two games before tonight were 0-for-4 and 0-for-1.

Contact & Mechanics

- **Flattest attack angle:** 5.5° – the lowest on Arizona's board – with a 3.1% barrel rate, 35.4% hard-hit and 87.6 avg exit velo (349 PA).
- **Swing-first, swing-safe:** 39.2% chase is among the most aggressive on the club, but the 9.7% K rate means he still puts the ball in play.
- **Contact engine:** the 70.6 mph bat speed and flat path make him a bat-to-ball utility piece, not a power source.

Splits

- **Strength:** With RISP .836 and Men On .790; a printed #1 batter-ahead AVG of .425 and #2 second-inning AVG of .370 this season.
- **Weakness:** .622 OPS vs RHP (Mize is a righty) vs .721 overall; After 0-2 he is .141 AVG / .357 OPS (65 PA).
- Home .759 vs Away .689 – a Chase Field-friendly profile.

Matchup Tonight

- **BvP:** no career REG PA vs Mize.
- **Right-side dip:** from the right side vs Mize, his season vs-RHP OPS drops to .622 – the weakest platoon number of the three profiled bats.
- **Count danger:** Mize's behind-count slider (44% on 2-0, 38% on 3-2) lines up against a hitter who is .141 after 0-2 this season (65 PA).
- **The swing-first edge:** his .375 1-0 count and #1 pitcher-ahead AVG run into a starter who throws 66.0% first-pitch strikes and 56.0% zone on 0-0.

Storylines

- **Milestone Watch:** 196 career REG RBI – 4 away from 200.
- **Club Glue:** the veteran utility infielder has become a first-base regular in a pennant race, with the club leaning on his defensive versatility to anchor a thinned-out position.
- **Mexico City Hero:** on April 26 he had a homer, triple and double as his 23-game hitting streak rolled through the comeback series vs San Diego.

What Matters Tonight

Switch hitter vs Mize's .237/.708 RHB split (148 PA), against his own .622 OPS vs righties.

- 4 RBI from 200 career, carrying the longest HR drought on the club (59 games, last May 12 vs Texas).
- Pitcher-ahead and 1-0 count strengths vs Mize's zone-first, behind-count slider mix.

Broadcast line: A contact-first utility bat with a 9.7% K rate and four RBI from 200, but a .622 OPS vs righties and a 59-game HR drought entering a Casey Mize matchup.

14. McCann / Locklear / Waldschmidt (ARI)

James McCann – Clubhouse engine on a 10-game tear

Veteran catcher in his 13th MLB season who has not been held hitless since returning from a quad strain, carrying a 10-game hitting streak and a 1.553 with-RISP OPS into a right-hander platoon spot he has been crushing.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
99	.319	.340	.500	.840	4	21	0	2.0%	24.2%

- **With runners in scoring position:** a .560 AVG and 1.553 OPS over 29 PA, with 2 of his 4 homers and 18 RBI coming in that spot; he also leads the league with a .425 AVG with men on base (45 PA).
- **Since the IL return:** 18-for-35 (.514) with 4 homers and 15 RBI across nine games, per the clubhouse report after Tuesday's two-run homer in the Padres series.
- **Best vs-RHP bat on the club:** a .968 OPS vs right-handers (58 PA) against a .840 season mark, with all four homers off righties.

Form & Streaks

- **Active 10-game hit streak** (season best), dating to his July 22 three-hit, three-RBI day at Oakland; he has not been held hitless since coming off the IL for a quadriceps strain.
- **Last 14 days:** a 1.532 OPS vs his .840 season line, a +.692 jump that is the biggest heater in the matchup (26 PA); he is the hottest bat in the building entering tonight.
- **This series vs SDP:** 3-for-7 (.429) with the two-run homer on August 4, and he has multi-hit games in five of his last six played (4-for-6 July 28 at PIT, 3-for-4 July 22 at ATH, 3-for-4 Aug 1 vs CLE).

Contact & Mechanics

- **The loosest swing decisions on the club:** a 42.5% chase rate (99 PA), up from 38.6% in 2023 and the highest of this Arizona group, yet the aggressive profile has not cost him in leverage, where his 1.553 RISP OPS is the best on the roster.
- **Bat speed climbing:** up from 70.4 mph (2023) to 72.1 mph (2026) while attack angle dropped from 13.4° to 10.3°, a flatter, quicker path.
- **Contact quality:** 8.3% barrel rate, 41.7% hard-hit rate and a 90.0 mph average exit velo on the season, with a .691 average when he hits the ball to the outfield (best in the league).

Splits

- **Strength:** vs RHP a .333/.357/.611 line (.968 OPS, 58 PA) and vs RH starters .292/.303/.477 (.780 OPS, 67 PA); vs LH starters he is even hotter at .379/.419/.552 (.971 OPS, 32 PA).
- **Strength:** with men on base .425 AVG / 1.215 OPS (45 PA) and with RISP .560 AVG / 1.553 OPS (29 PA), the club's top situational performer.
- **Strength:** on the road .362/.375/.553 (.928 OPS, 49 PA) vs .277/.306/.447 (.753, 50 PA) at home.
- **Weakness:** a 2.0% walk rate (2 walks in 99 PA) with a 24.2% K rate, and just a .667 OPS in 41 PA vs lefties when the platoon flips.

Matchup Tonight

- **BvP:** 0-for-3 (5 PA) in his career against Casey Mize, with 2 walks and 2 strikeouts.
- **Platoon fit:** Mize's softer split is vs right-handed bats (.237/.708, 24.3% K, 148 PA), and McCann owns a .968 OPS vs RHP (58 PA); tonight lines up the catcher's best side against the starter's weaker side.

- **Zone clash:** Mize throws a first-pitch strike 66.0% of the time and lives in the zone 49.3%, against the club's widest swing profile (42.5% chase), a pattern that puts McCann's expansion tendencies in the spotlight.
- **Career look at the peer mix:** in 16 career PA vs Reynaldo Lopez, a four-seam/slider peer to Mize, McCann went 7-for-16 (.438), with Lopez's four-seam taking the hits.

Storylines

- **Clubhouse Note:** McCann is in line for a short-term playing-time bump while Gabriel Moreno is on the paternity list, and his hot stretch could carve out some designated-hitter at-bats as well.
- **Return arc:** activated from a quadriceps strain and has not been held hitless since, going 18-for-35 (.514) with 4 homers and 15 RBI in nine games.

What Matters Tonight

Mize is softest vs right-handed bats (.237/.708, 24.3% K) and McCann has a .968 OPS vs RHP (58 PA), the cleanest platoon marriage in this order.

- McCann's 42.5% chase meets Mize's in-zone volume (49.3% zone, 66.0% first-pitch strikes), the widest-swing-vs-strike-thrower collision of the night.
- He is 0-for-3 career vs Mize but brings a 10-game hit streak and a 1.532 last-14 OPS, with 18 RBI in 29 RISP PA.
- **Broadcast line:** A catcher on a 10-game hit streak with a 1.553 RISP OPS steps into the right-hander platoon side where Mize is softest.

Tyler Locklear – Fresh righty bat, thin look

Second-year first baseman whose brief 2026 sample carries a 13.6% barrel rate, but who has gone quiet since a three-RBI breakout on July 23.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
31	.240	.355	.400	.755	1	6	1	12.9%	12.9%

- **Thin but even profile:** 31 PA with a 12.9% walk rate matching his 12.9% K rate, and his only homer and 5 of 6 RBI have come against right-handed pitching (a .781 OPS vs RHP, 26 PA).
- **Power on a small card:** the Statcast board flags a 13.6% barrel rate and a 111.5 mph max exit velo, though the sub-50 PA sample carries no rate tendency and no peer rank.
- **The breakout day:** 3-for-5 with a homer and 3 RBI vs St. Louis on July 23, his 6th career REG home run.

Form & Streaks

- **HR drought 5:** no homer since the July 23 blast vs STL, and across his five games since that breakout he is 1-for-12 with 2 walks (July 24 through Aug 2).
- **No active hit streak** (season best 3); his last appearance was 0-for-2 with a walk Aug 2 at Cleveland.
- The July 23 game (3-for-5, 1 HR, 3 RBI) stands as the clear peak of a small-sample season, bookended by quiet lines.

Contact & Mechanics

- **Stability floor:** with only 31 PA, every rate here sits under the 50-PA sample that carries tendencies; the printed contact card shows a 13.6% barrel rate and 31.8% hard-hit rate on a 83.6 mph average exit velo, best read as a first glance rather than a profile.
- **Bat speed:** 72.7 mph with a short 6.7 ft swing and a flat 6.3° attack angle, the flattest path in this group, matching a first baseman's line-drive approach.
- **Discipline note:** a 23.8% chase rate and even walk-to-strikeout ratio (4 walks, 4 K in 31 PA) suggest patience in a small window.

Splits

- **Strength:** vs RHP a .261/.346/.435 line (.781 OPS, 26 PA) with 1 HR and 5 RBI, the only arm side with a usable sample; vs RH starters .235/.333/.471 (.804 OPS, 21 PA).
- **Strength:** a .273/.400/.546 line with RISP (.946 OPS, 15 PA) and a 12.9% walk rate, though both sit on thin samples.
- **Soft spot:** 0-for-2 vs left-handed pitching with 2 walks in 5 PA, and an 0.650 OPS at home (10 PA) vs .804 on the road (21 PA).

Matchup Tonight

- No career REG PA vs Casey Mize (this season or career), a clean first look for both sides.
- Mize leans four-seam 34.4%, slider 26.2% and splitter 23.7%; Locklear's pitch-type cells vs those offerings are all below the 25-PA board floor, so no printed edge in either direction.
- Mize's right-hand platoon split (.237/.708, 24.3% K, 148 PA) is his softer side, and Locklear's only real sample (.781 OPS vs RHP) comes on that same side.
- Mize throws a first-pitch strike 66.0% of the time and is in the zone 56.0% on 0-0; Locklear's 23.8% chase rate is the most selective of tonight's profiled ARI bats.

Storylines

- **Career snapshot:** 56 career REG games with 6 homers and 15 RBI, now getting looks at first base in a thin-sample season where his one power day (July 23) is the anchor.

What Matters Tonight

Locklear's only usable platoon sample is vs RHP (.781 OPS, 26 PA) and Mize is a right-hander throwing to his softer .237/.708 split.

- A first look at Mize with no career BvP and no printed pitch-type edge on either side, so the matchup is defined by Locklear's patience (23.8% chase) vs Mize's 66.0% first-pitch strikes.
- He enters cold (1-for-12 with 2 walks in five games since July 23) against a starter with a 2.70 ERA.
- **Broadcast line:** A patient righty first baseman on a 1-for-12 slide gets his first career look at a strike-throwing right-hander whose soft spot is right-handed bats.

Ryan Waldschmidt – Rookie masher of sliders

At home

2024 first-round pick (No. 31 overall, Kentucky) whose rookie season features a 1.167 OPS vs sliders league-wide and a .351 Chase Field batting average, with his damage concentrated in this park.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
171	.287	.329	.401	.731	1	13	6	5.3%	32.2%

- **The marquee pitch edge on either side:** a 1.167 OPS vs sliders league-wide, 5th best in MLB (26 PA), the top slider cell on the Arizona board; the flip side is a .518 OPS vs sweepers (27 PA).
- **A steep park split:** .351 AVG / .872 OPS at Chase Field (79 PA) vs .229 AVG / .607 OPS on the road (92 PA); he leads the league in batting average in this ballpark.
- **Left-handed specialists, not righties:** a .419 AVG / 1.075 OPS vs LH starters (47 PA) but a .689 OPS vs RHP (127 PA), the side he faces tonight.

Form & Streaks

- **Heating up:** a 1.071 last-14 OPS vs his .731 season line (+.340, 32 PA), with multi-hit games in four of his last six (2-for-3 Aug 1 vs CLE, 2-for-4 July 22 at ATH).
- **Active 1-game hit streak** (season best 6), going 1-for-3 Aug 4 vs SDP after an 0-for-3 the night before.
- **HR drought 9:** no homer since the two-run shot at Oakland on July 22; he has 13 RBI and 6 steals on the season.

Contact & Mechanics

- **Rookie with no prior-year baseline:** debut 2026, so there is no YoY bat-tracking series; his first MLB look across 171 PA shows 72.1 mph bat speed, a 9.9° attack angle and a 7.0 ft swing length.
- **Contact quality:** 7.7% barrel rate, 34.6% hard-hit rate and an 87.9 mph average exit velo, with a 25.6% chase rate that is the second-most-selective among tonight's profiled bats.
- **The aggressive cost:** a 32.2% K rate against a 5.3% walk rate, an all-or-nothing swing that pairs the slider damage with the swing-and-miss.

Splits

- **Strength:** at Chase Field a .351/.372/.500 line (.872 OPS, 79 PA) with his only homer and 9 RBI, the best park performance on the club and a home assignment tonight.
- **Strength:** vs LH starters .419/.447/.628 (1.075 OPS, 47 PA) and .342/.386/.463 vs LHP overall (44 PA); with runners on base .294/.333/.471 (.804 OPS, 76 PA).
- **Weakness:** vs RH starters a .237/.285/.316 line (.600 OPS, 124 PA) and vs RHP .267/.310/.379 (.689, 127 PA) – the right-handed side he draws tonight.
- **Weakness:** with RISP a .235 AVG / .594 OPS (40 PA), the weakest printed RISP line on the club; also a .607 OPS on the road (92 PA).

Matchup Tonight

No career REG PA vs Casey Mize, a first look for the rookie:

- **Slider-on-slider:** Waldschmidt's 1.167 OPS vs sliders league-wide (5th best MLB, 26 PA) meets Mize's 26.2% slider usage (87.7 mph, 27.7% whiff), the most discriminating pitch-on-pitch edge in this matchup.
- **The other side:** Mize's four-seam (34.4% usage) is the volume pitch, and Waldschmidt's .689 OPS vs RHP (127 PA) is his soft side; Mize's right-hand split is also his own softer side (.237/.708, 24.3% K, 148 PA).
- **Sweeper note:** Waldschmidt's .518 OPS vs sweepers (27 PA) is his weakness, but Mize throws a slurve just 4.9% of the time, so the board does not put that pitch in the starter's regular rotation.
- **Count profile:** a .333 AVG / .883 OPS late and close (31 PA) makes him a late-game bat on the home side of his park split.

Storylines

- **Draft Story:** No. 31 overall pick in the 2024 MLB June Amateur Draft out of Kentucky, after a junior season of .333/.469/.610 with 14 homers on a College World Series team and a torn ACL in summer ball before it; he started 2026 in Triple-A (.287/.400/.477) before the call-up.
- **Hometown Hook:** a Bradenton (Fla.) Braden River product who began college at Charleston Southern, hit 9 homers as a freshman, then transferred to Kentucky.
- **Quote on getting the call:** >

"You guys better book your flights to Phoenix. – Ryan Waldschmidt · On 3 · July 25, 2026

What Matters Tonight

The rookie's 1.167 slider OPS (5th best MLB, 26 PA) is the single biggest pitch edge on the board, and Mize throws sliders 26.2% of the time.

- Mize is a right-hander, Waldschmidt's soft side (.689 vs RHP, 127 PA), but Mize's right-hand split (.237/.708) is his own soft spot, leaving the platoon a wash.
- He is home tonight, where he hits .351 AVG / .872 OPS, the steepest park edge on the club.
- His one real weakness (sweeper, .518 OPS) is a pitch Mize barely throws (slurve 4.9%).
- **Broadcast line:** A home-park rookie with a 1.167 league-wide slider OPS draws a right-hander who leans on his slider 26% of the time.

15. Abner / Arenado / Marte (ARI)

Philip Abner – Rookie lefty, fresh call-up

He is a 24-year-old rookie left-handed reliever placed in the batting order, a first-year presence with no tracked big-league at-bats and a 6.75 ERA relief line.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

No tracked big-league plate appearances this season – Abner is a left-handed pitcher (B/T: L/L) in the order. His 2026 relief line: **6.75 ERA**, 1.500 WHIP, 4.8 K/9 over limited innings with a .229 opponent AVG.

- **Rookie arm:** He carries just 10 career strikeouts in 12.8 IP across two seasons, with rookie status still intact through 2026 – this is his fourth MLB stint of the year, recalled from Triple-A Reno to add length to a taxed bullpen.
- **Fresh off the wire:** The call-up came to fill the roster spot of the injured Ryan Thompson, and Arizona is leaning on him for innings coverage with rookies Kohl Drake and Mitch Bratt both starting in this Padres series.

Matchup Tonight

- **First look on record:** No career REG plate appearances vs Casey Mize – every at-bat would be a first.
- **The platoon wall:** Batting left, Abner walks into Mize's best side – the right-hander has held left-handed bats to a .194 opponent AVG / .507 OPS with a 25.4% K rate this season (193 PA), versus .237/.708 against righties.

Storylines

- **Draft Story:** A 6th-round pick (175th overall) out of Florida in 2023, he debuted Sept. 19, 2025 and has bounced between Reno and Phoenix three times already this year.
- **Call-up Context:** His 5.01 ERA at Triple-A Reno actually sits above the PCL average – he is here for length, not leverage, in a series that needs bullpen innings.

What Matters Tonight

He is a pitching-first bat with no big-league at-bats on record, so every plate appearance is a genuine first look.

- If he digs in from the left side, Mize's season-long platoon edge against lefties is the defining matchup number (.194 opponent AVG / .507 OPS, 193 PA).

Broadcast line: A rookie reliever in the order, called up for length, facing the righty's stronger left-handed split.

Nolan Arenado – Rebounding power bat

With a heater edge

A 35-year-old third baseman in his first full Arizona season has rebounded to 16 home runs and a .754 OPS while crushing the exact pitch Mize throws most – four-seam fastballs.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
418	.244	.325	.428	.754	16	53	3	9.3%	20.8%

- **RBI machine:** Career RBI rank sits 2nd best in MLB / 1st best in the NL, and he has driven in 53 this year while hitting just .244 – the run-production engine is intact even when the batting line lags.
- **The heater edge:** Arenado owns a .973 OPS vs four-seam fastballs league-wide (114 PA), his strongest pitch-type split, against the pitch that anchors Mize's 34.4% usage.
- **First-half power spike:** He had a grand slam in the first inning vs San Francisco on May 18 and is up to 7.4% barrel rate after a 3.9% dip in 2025.

Form & Streaks

- **Coming in hot:** On a 2-game hit streak (season best 6), and he homered last night vs San Diego – 1-for-4 with a HR and 2 RBI on Aug. 4, part of a 2-for-7 (.286) series with a homer.
- **Heating up board:** His last-14-days OPS sits at .900 against a .754 season mark, one of the club's best recent stretches.
- **Post-break mechanics shift:** Attack angle has flattened from 13.0° (Apr-Jun) to 10.7° (Jul-Aug) while bat speed holds at 71.6 vs 71.1 mph.

Contact & Mechanics

- **Longest swing in the room:** His 8.4-ft swing length is the 2nd longest in MLB (up from 8.2 ft in 2023), paired with the steepest attack angle of the span at 13.0° (10.5° in 2025) at a bat speed that has held near 71 mph.
- **Power rebound, softer contact:** Barrel rate climbed back from 3.2% (2024) and 3.9% (2025) to 7.4%, but exit velocity has faded from 88.8 to 85.3 mph – 5th worst in the NL – and hard-hit sits at 33.1%.
- **The chase stays wide:** At 30.3% chase he remains an expansive swinger, down from a 34.1% mark in 2023 but still chasing; the whiff rate is 23.8%.

Splits

- **Strength:** Home is where the production lives – .276/.351/.483 (.833) at Chase Field versus .215/.304/.380 (.683) on the road, and he's a career .280/.334/.507 hitter in 151 games at Chase Field.
- **Strength:** vs left-handed pitching he posts .255/.330/.489 (.820) in 106 PA; the split he struggles with is righties – .240/.324/.407 (.731) in 312 PA, and Mize is a righty.
- **Weakness:** Two-strike work is the soft spot – .191 AVG / .506 OPS with two strikes (232 PA) and .207/.477 after 0-2 (86 PA), plus a .164 AVG with 2 outs and RISP (61 PA).

Matchup Tonight

- No career REG PA vs Mize – this is a first look for the vet against San Diego's new deadline arm.
- **The four-seam edge:** .973 OPS vs four-seams league-wide (114 PA) and .943 vs sinkers (80 PA) line up against Mize's 34.4% four-seam and 10.7% sinker usage.
- **The splitter soft spot:** Arenado sits at just .580 OPS vs changeups league-wide (42 PA) – and Mize's splitter (23.7% usage, 34.5% whiff) is the offspeed he has struggled with most.
- **Similar-arm look:** Against Emmet Sheehan (a slider/four-seam RHP in 2026) Arenado went 2-for-7 (.286) with a homer – but that HR came on a slider down in the zone, and Sheehan's slider was the putaway on 2 of his 3 strikeouts.

Storylines

- **Deadline quote (Aug. 3):** After the D-backs' 5-1 win over San Diego, Arenado said:

"I thought it was great for us to come out and stay at it... We got 'Noot,' which is going to make us a better team offensively and defensively. – Arizona Republic · Aug. 3, 2026
- **Hometown hook:** From Orange County with family in Arizona, he called the winter trade from St. Louis a "no-brainer" – and he homered in his very first at-bat as a Diamondback this spring against his old Rockies club.

What Matters Tonight

He owns four-seam fastballs (.973 OPS, 114 PA) – Mize's most-thrown pitch at 34.4%.

- No career REG PA vs Mize, but a .580 OPS vs changeups league-wide flags the splitter as the counter.
- He is at Chase Field, where his home OPS (.833) is a full 150 points above his road mark, on a 2-game hit streak with a homer last night.
- The post-break flattening (13.0° → 10.7° attack angle) pairs with the power rebound he rode to a May 18 grand slam.

Broadcast line: A four-seam-crushing, home-split third baseman on a 2-game streak, getting his first career look at Mize's splitter-heavy mix.

Ketel Marte – Star switch-hitter in a down year

A three-time All-Star switch-hitter whose .752 OPS / 17-HR season sits well off his 2024 peak, and who has been cold league-wide against exactly the four-seam fastballs Mize leans on.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
446	.251	.309	.443	.752	17	57	4	7.4%	14.8%

- **The steepest drop of his prime:** From a .932 OPS / 36 HR in 2024 and .893 / 28 HR in 2025, Marte has fallen to a .752 OPS through 101 games – the walk rate has nearly halved from an 11.2% mark over 2023-25 to 7.4%.
- **Cold in the big spots:** A .100 AVG / .313 OPS with RISP (43 PA) and .172 / .414 on the first pitch (29 PA) are two of the coldest count cells on the club.
- **The heater problem:** Marte has just a .399 OPS vs four-seam fastballs league-wide (46 PA) – his weakest pitch-type split – against Mize's primary pitch.

Form & Streaks

- **In a drought:** Marte is on a 15-game HR drought (last homer July 8 vs Philadelphia) with no active hit streak, and he went 0-for-3 in his last game (Aug. 3).
- **Cold second half:** Since the break he is 7-for-35 (.200) with no home runs – a slide that tracks his 15-game power drought.
- **The power is still in there:** Earlier this year he hit 2 walk-off homers (May 19 vs San Francisco, June 4 vs the Dodgers) and won NL Player of the Week for May 18-24 after a 15-for-28 (.536) week with 3 homers.

Contact & Mechanics

- **Barrel down, process up:** Barrel rate has slipped from 13.5% (2025) to 10.4%, but average exit velocity has actually climbed to 91.4 mph with hard-hit up – the contact quality is still there; the swing decisions are not.
- **The chase collapse:** Marte has gone from roughly the 71st percentile in chase rate and 84th in walk rate (2023-25) to about the 36th and 28th percentiles this season – his chase swings on out-of-zone pitches have nearly doubled versus his 2023-25 peak, and he was swinging at ~40% of chase pitches in his first 66 PA.
- **The bad-luck layer:** Early-season expected batting average sat near .301 (97th percentile) against a .251 actual – a hard-luck element on top of the discipline erosion.

Splits

- **Weakness:** RISP has been his worst situation – .100 AVG / .313 OPS in 43 PA – and the first pitch (AVG .172 / OPS .414, 29 PA) is another cold cell for a switch-hitter who usually works counts.
- **Weakness:** His league-wide pitch-type profile is a soft spot across the board: .399 OPS vs four-seams (46 PA), .539 vs sliders (31 PA), .599 vs sinkers (39 PA).

Matchup Tonight

- No career REG PA vs Mize – a first look for the veteran against San Diego's new right-hander.
- **The four-seam collision:** Marte's .399 OPS vs four-seams league-wide (46 PA) lines up against Mize's 34.4% four-seam usage, and his .539 vs sliders (31 PA) meets Mize's 26.2% slider – his two soft spots align with Mize's two most-thrown pitches.
- **No career REG PA** means there is no BvP history to lean on – the matchup grain is entirely pitch-type vs arsenal.

Storylines

- **Franchise anchor:** Since 2017, Marte is a three-time All-Star, posted the 2019 breakout (.329/.389/.592, 32 HR) and was NLCS MVP in 2023 with a record 20-game postseason hitting streak – the ceiling everyone measures this year against.
- **Player of the Week:** He won the award for the second time in his career (first since Sept. 2019) with his May 18-24 barrage, evidence the old version is still in the tank when the swings are disciplined.

What Matters Tonight

His league-wide .399 OPS vs four-seams (46 PA) meets the pitch Mize throws 34.4% of the time.

- No career REG PA vs Mize – first look, with the splitter (23.7% usage) an untested offspeed.
- On a 15-game HR drought and 7-for-35 (.200) since the break, but with 2 walk-off homers on the year and a Player of the Week on his card.
- His 7.4% walk rate, nearly halved from 2023-25, is the root of a season that is a steep step from the 2024 peak.

Broadcast line: A slumping switch-hitter in a 15-game power drought, cold league-wide against the four-seam fastball Mize throws most.

16. Barrosa / Kepler (ARI)

Jorge Barrosa – Switch-hitter, two-strike minefield

A young switch-hitting outfielder whose defensive value outpaces a bat that goes quiet the moment the pitcher grabs control of the count.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
148	.192	.277	.344	.621	2	11	0	9.5%	26.4%

- **Two-strike collapse is the defining trait:** a .335 OPS in 87 two-strike PA, .146 after 0-2 (28 PA) and .129 in 2-2 counts (25 PA) – the profile falls apart once the pitcher gets ahead.
- **The counterweight:** he is a productive 3-ball worker, carrying a 1.055 OPS when he's ahead (54 PA) and a .936 OPS in three-ball counts (33 PA) – deep counts, then nothing to show for them.
- **The damage is minimal when he does connect:** 5.3% barrel rate, 23.4% hard-hit and an 87.2 mph average exit velocity with a 104.1 max EV, against a 29.6% chase rate.

Form & Streaks

- Active 1-game hit streak (season best 4), with a 16-game HR drought (T-189th MLB) that dates to his last homer June 20 vs Minnesota.
- **Reps are scarce off the bench:** 8 games, 7 at-bats over the last 30 days, going 2-for-7 (.286) with 1 RBI.
- He drove in a run with a sacrifice single in the eighth inning at Chase Field on Aug. 3 against these same Padres – a clean beat from the current series.

Contact & Mechanics

- A 14.2° attack angle is among the steepest on this club, but the swing produces little of it in the air with authority – 87.2 mph average EV and a 104.1 max are the lowest profile among the profiled Arizona regulars.
- The 69.2 mph bat speed and 7.7-ft swing length are the slowest/longest pairing in the group; the chase rate sits at 29.6%.

Splits

- **Weakness:** as a left-handed hitter vs right-handed pitching, a .522 OPS in 97 PA – the club's toughest vs-RHP spot on the board, and the side he bats from tonight against Casey Mize.
- **Strength:** as a right-handed hitter vs lefties he jumps to .817 OPS (51 PA), a near-300-point split that makes him a platoon weapon against southpaws.
- **Weakness:** with runners in scoring position .561 OPS (35 PA) and .362 in late-and-close spots (35 PA), while the home line sits at .581 (78 PA).

Matchup Tonight

- No career REG plate appearances vs Casey Mize – a first look at the right-hander.
- Mize has been at his best against left-handed bats this season (.194/.507, 25.4% K vs LHB in 193 PA), which is exactly the side Barrosa works from tonight with his .522 OPS vs righties.
- Barrosa's two-strike (.335, 87 PA) and after-0-2 (.146, 28 PA) trouble lines up against a starter who throws a 66.0% first-pitch strike and a 56.0% zone rate on 0-0 – the count leverage is Mize's from pitch one.

Storylines

- Signed as a 16-year-old international free agent in 2017, Barrosa's path to Chase Field ran through 2024 injury stints and a pair of brief cups of coffee before this fuller look.
- His calling card is the glove:** +5 OAA in center field, the standout defensive number on his card as Arizona fights for a wild-card spot.

What Matters Tonight

A switch-hitting bat that does its damage only in 3-ball counts meeting a strike-throwing righty who gets ahead 66% of the time.

- His .522 OPS vs righties is the softest vs-RHP mark in the projected order, and tonight he faces the side of Mize's split that has been near-unhittable (.194/.507 vs LHB).
- The defensive floor (+5 OAA in CF) is the safety net if the at-bat goes sideways.
- Broadcast line:** Barrosa's pitcher's-count collapse (.335 two-strike OPS) runs into a 66% first-pitch-strike righty with a .194/.507 lefty split.

Max Kepler – Late-arriving lefty, still catching up

A 12-year veteran lefty trying to find his timing against right-handed pitching after missing the season's first half to an 80-game suspension.

Season Line & Ranks (2026 REG)

PA	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	HR	RBI	SB	BB%	K%
98	.218	.286	.356	.642	2	15	0	9.2%	20.4%

- The righty wall is the story:** a .614 OPS vs right-handed pitching as a left-handed batter in 89 PA (and .675 vs RH starters), the drag on his whole line.
- The damage is real when it lands:** 44.9% hard-hit and an 8.7% barrel rate with a 110.3 mph max exit velocity – the 2 homers undersell how hard he squares it up.
- Aggressive to a fault:** a 37.9% chase rate and a .366 OPS in 46 two-strike PA leave him vulnerable once the count turns against him.

Form & Streaks

- Active 12-game HR drought (T-252nd MLB) since a leadoff homer July 21 vs Oakland; the 2-for-4, 0-for-2, 0-for-4 line across his last three games shows a cold current window (0-for-4 this series).
- Over the last 30 days he has hit .234/.359 with 1 HR and 11 RBI across 20 games – the RBI production is ahead of the batting line.
- His last-14-day OPS (.556) is nearly 90 points below his season mark – a mid-summer cool-off after a hot July.

Contact & Mechanics

- A 7.5° attack angle with an 89.0 mph average EV and 44.9% hard-hit rate – flat and line-drive oriented, which helps explain the modest homer total despite the exit velocity.
- The 37.9% chase is the aggressive end of his profile; he expands the zone rather than letting deep counts play out.

Splits

- Weakness:** vs right-handed pitching .614 OPS (89 PA) – and two-strike counts .366 (46 PA), the platoon-and-count combination that defines the down year.
- Strength:** with runners in scoring position .773 OPS (33 PA) and .743 with men on (54 PA), with a .912 OPS in tie games (27 PA) – the productive side is situational, not volume.
- Home and road lines are identical (.642 both), so Chase Field offers no home boost tonight.

Matchup Tonight

- Career REG vs Casey Mize:** 2-for-11 (12 PA) – a decade's worth of prior looks, and the only Arizona projected bat with real history against him.
- It is a bad-platoon collision:** Mize's .194/.507 with a 25.4% K rate against lefties is the strongest side of his split, and Kepler's .614 OPS vs righties is the weakest side of his.
- The similar-arm history is split:** 4-for-28 with 2 HR vs fastball/slider righty Reynaldo Lopez, but 8-for-28 with 4 HR and 7 K vs Dylan Cease in the same family – he has power against this profile even while the average stays low.

Storylines

- Kepler signed with Arizona on June 7 and was activated June 25 after an 80-game PED suspension; his first homer with the club came July 6 against these Padres at Petco (his 180th career long ball).
- He is ineligible for the postseason under MLB's performance-enhancing-drug rules even if Arizona advances – a unique role of contributing to a push he cannot finish.
- At 181 career REG homers and 1,002 career hits, he is squarely in the second-half-of-a-strong-career stage, chasing rhythm more than milestones.

What Matters Tonight

The veteran's 2-for-11 career mark vs Mize meets a starter who has throttled left-handed bats (.194/.507, 25.4% K).

- Kepler's .614 OPS vs righties is the softest platoon mark of his season, and Mize's 66% first-pitch-strike rate keeps the count in the pitcher's favor from the jump.
- The 44.9% hard-hit rate says the barrel is there – the chase (37.9%) and two-strike (.366) numbers say it rarely gets a chance.
- Broadcast line:** Kepler's 2-for-11 history vs Mize and .614 righty split run into the strongest lefty platoon in the rotation – with the power to flip it on one squared fastball.

17. Betting Lines & Market Storylines

Game Market Read

Market	Team	Side	Line	Price
Moneyline	SD	Away	-135	-135

Market	Team	Side	Line	Price
Moneyline	ARI	Home	+120	+120
Total	Game	Over	8.5	-111
Total	Game	Under	8.5	-109
Spread	ARI	Home	+1.5	-144
Spread	SD	Away	-1.5	+120

- **Road favorite by a nose:** San Diego opens -135 on the road even though it trails Arizona by one game on the season W-L (59-55 vs 60-54) – the market leans on the Padres' red-hot 8-2 last ten and the deeper bullpen (3.71 season ERA, 6th in MLB) against Arizona's 4.15.
- **Spread tilt:** Arizona +1.5 is the heavily-backed side at -144, while San Diego -1.5 pays +120 – a market that expects a close game more than a blowout in either direction.
- **Total at 8.5:** Slightly shaded Over at -111, but the pitching matchup – Mize's 2.70 ERA and top-shelf HR suppression against a rookie lefty in Bratt – keeps the number from running away in a hitter-friendly park.

Hot Prop Angles

Team	Player (Hot)	Prop	Line	Price	L5 O%	L10 O%	Season O%	Last 5	Season Avg/G
SD	Manny Machado	Hits	0.5	-241	40% (2/5)	60% (6/10)	55% (61/111)	3, 0, 0, 0, 1	0.79
ARI	Corbin Carroll	Hits	0.5	-225	20% (1/5)	50% (5/10)	61.8% (68/110)	0, 0, 0, 2, 0	0.91
ARI	Gabriel Moreno	Hits	0.5	-217	60% (3/5)	70% (7/10)	67.1% (57/85)	0, 0, 1, 1, 1	1.05
SD	Xander Bogaerts	Hits	0.5	-200	80% (4/5)	70% (7/10)	55.6% (60/108)	2, 1, 0, 2, 1	0.78
ARI	Lars Nootbaar	Hits	0.5	-195	40% (2/5)	50% (5/10)	57.1% (28/49)	0, 1, 1, 0, 0	0.76
SD	Freddy Fermin	Hits	0.5	-180	80% (4/5)	80% (8/10)	43.9% (25/57)	2, 2, 1, 1, 0	0.54
SD	Luis Campusano	Hits	0.5	-180	100% (5/5)	70% (7/10)	60.5% (23/38)	2, 1, 3, 1, 2	0.87

Broadcast Leans

- **Strongest:** Gabriel Moreno's hit line is the sturdiest number on the board – 67.1% season clear rate, 70% over the last ten, and a 1.05 hits-per-game average against the 0.5 line – and he steps in as the DH tonight fresh off the paternity-list return with a .298/.380/.818 season slash.
- **Strongest:** San Diego's Xander Bogaerts is the model of consistency – 80% in the last five, 70% in the last ten, and a 0.78 average that clears the 0.5 line in a majority of his 108 games.
- **Strongest:** Luis Campusano is 5-for-5 clearing the hit line across his last five (100% L5) with a 60.5% season rate and a 0.87 average – the shortest-price catcher prop of the night.
- **Recent support:** Freddy Fermin pairs an 80% L5 and 80% L10 with a modest 43.9% season mark – the book is pricing momentum, not the full-season rate.
- **Softest:** Corbin Carroll's -225 price outruns his recent output – 1-for-5 (20%) over his last five with a 0-0-0-2-0 run, even though the 61.8% season rate and 0.91 average justify the favorite tag long-term.

Cold Prop Long Shots

Team	Player (Cold)	Prop	Line	Price	L5 O%	L10 O%	Season O%	Last 5	Season Avg/G
ARI	Ryan Waldschmidt	Home Runs	0.5	+1000	0% (0/5)	10% (1/10)	2.1% (1/47)	0, 0, 0, 0, 0	0.02
SD	Jake Cronenworth	Home Runs	0.5	+900	0% (0/5)	0% (0/10)	4.9% (3/61)	0, 0, 0, 0, 0	0.05
ARI	Tyler Locklear	Home Runs	0.5	+850	0% (0/5)	11.1% (1/9)	11.1% (1/9)	0, 0, 0, 0, 0	0.11
ARI	James McCann	Home Runs	0.5	+800	20% (1/5)	30% (3/10)	10.3% (3/29)	1, 0, 0, 0, 0	0.14
SD	Freddy Fermin	Home Runs	0.5	+770	20% (1/5)	10% (1/10)	7% (4/57)	0, 1, 0, 0, 0	0.07
SD	Jase Bowen	Home Runs	0.5	+750	20% (1/5)	10% (1/10)	3.1% (1/32)	0, 0, 0, 1, 0	0.03
SD	Xander Bogaerts	Home Runs	0.5	+750	0% (0/5)	0% (0/10)	8.3% (9/108)	0, 0, 0, 0, 0	0.08

Broadcast Leans

- **Recent support:** James McCann is the one long shot with live momentum – he homered in his last five (20% L5), is 3-for-10 over the last ten, carries a 10-game hit streak, and owns a .968 OPS vs right-handed pitching with all four of his homers off righties, exactly the side Mize throws from.
- **Recent support:** Tyler Locklear's HR number is tied to a tiny sample – his lone homer of the season came within his last ten games (11.1% L10) – so the +850 is buying recency rather than track record.
- **Softest:** Jake Cronenworth has gone 0-for-5 and 0-for-10 clearing the HR line (4.9% season, 0.05 HR/G) – a genuinely sticky, hard number with zero recent juice.
- **Softest:** Ryan Waldschmidt is 1-for-47 on the season (2.1%) with a blank last five – the +1000 is pure lottery-ticket pricing.
- **Softest:** Xander Bogaerts is 0-for-5 and 0-for-10 on the HR line despite an 8.3% season mark – the power prop is cold even for a hitter with a strong hit line tonight.

Featured O/U Leans

Team	Player	Prop	Line	2026 Avg	Line vs Avg	L5 O%	L10 O%	Season O%	Last 5	Over Price
ARI	Corbin Carroll	Hits	0.5	0.91	+0.41	20% (1/5)	50% (5/10)	61.8% (68/110)	0, 0, 0, 2, 0	-225
ARI	Corbin Carroll	Hits+Runs+RBIs	1.5	0.00	-1.50	20% (1/5)	40% (4/10)	51.8% (57/110)	0, 0, 0, 7, 1	-130
ARI	Corbin Carroll	Home Runs	0.5	0.15	-0.35	20% (1/5)	10% (1/10)	13.6% (15/110)	0, 0, 0, 1, 0	+425
ARI	Corbin Carroll	RBIs	0.5	0.47	-0.03	20% (1/5)	10% (1/10)	27.3% (30/110)	0, 0, 0, 3, 0	+165
ARI	Corbin Carroll	Runs	0.5	0.61	+0.11	40% (2/5)	60% (6/10)	49.1% (54/110)	0, 0, 0, 2, 1	-110
ARI	Gabriel Moreno	Hits	0.5	1.05	+0.55	60% (3/5)	70% (7/10)	67.1% (57/85)	0, 0, 1, 1, 1	-217
ARI	Gabriel Moreno	Hits+Runs+RBIs	1.5	0.00	-1.50	60% (3/5)	70% (7/10)	58.8% (50/85)	0, 1, 2, 5, 4	-120
ARI	Gabriel Moreno	Home Runs	0.5	0.09	-0.41	20% (1/5)	10% (1/10)	9.4% (8/85)	0, 0, 0, 1, 0	+700
ARI	Gabriel Moreno	RBIs	0.5	0.55	+0.05	80% (4/5)	80% (8/10)	38.8% (33/85)	0, 1, 1, 2, 2	+165
ARI	Gabriel Moreno	Runs	0.5	0.54	+0.04	40% (2/5)	40% (4/10)	43.5% (37/85)	0, 0, 0, 2, 1	+140

Broadcast Leans

- **Over – Moreno Hits:** The best-supported number on the featured board – 67.1% season clear rate, 70% L10, and a 1.05 average that sits +0.55 over the line; the DH spot keeps him in the order all night.
- **Over – Moreno RBIs:** 80% L5 and 80% L10 with a 38.8% season rate, and the two RBI showings in his last three (Last 5: 0, 1, 1, 2, 2) line up with the .560 AVG / 1.553 OPS he carries with runners in scoring position.
- **Over – Carroll Runs:** The lone Carroll cell with recent push – 60% L10 at a -110 price, a 0.61 runs-per-game average that clears the 0.5 line, and the +0.11 line-vs-avg margin is the second-biggest on the board.
- **Sticky – Carroll RBIs:** 27.3% season and just 10% L10 – the RBI prop is a tough over even at +165, with three straight zero-RBI games in his last five.
- **Sticky – Carroll HR:** 13.6% season, 10% L10, and he's 0-for-5 clearing the line lately – the +425 power prop needs a swing he hasn't shown in this window.

Conditions

- **Retractable roof in Phoenix:** Chase Field is climate-controlled for an August night, so the hitter-friendly environment is stable regardless of the 100-degree-plus desert heat outside – no wind or weather variable to push the total.
- **Mize's home-run suppression:** The starter with the 2.70 ERA ranks 3rd among MLB starters in home runs allowed per nine (0.520), the exact counterweight to a hitter-friendly park and a total parked at 8.5.
- **Pen edge indoors:** San Diego's Yuki Matsui owns the best opponent batting average in MLB in retractable-roof parks (.074), a bullpen quirk that fits the roofed setting tonight.

Broadcast line: The market's cleanest story is Gabriel Moreno – 67.1% season clear rate on the hit line, 70% over his last ten, and a 1.05 average against the 0.5 number – stepping into the DH spot on a heater that gives Arizona its most bankable prop of the night.

18. Umpires & Officiating

Crew assignments from MLB Stats API (official pre-game posting).

Crew

Position	Umpire
Home Plate	James Jean
First Base	Quinn Wolcott
Second Base	Ramon De Jesus
Third Base	Paul Clemons

Home-Plate Umpire Tendencies (2026)

James Jean – HP umpire, 3 years in MLB (since 2024). 16 home-plate games in 2026.

Metric	Value	vs League
K%	23.6%	-4.1 vs lg (hitter)
BB%	12.9%	league avg
Runs/Game	9.69	+0.7 vs lg (hitter)

Overall zone profile: Near league average. **Temperament:** Patient – no ejections in 2026.

Called-strike rate on **taken pitches only** (ball or called strike; excludes swings). 2026 regular season, batter-view zones (in/away flip by handedness).

- **Parentheses:** league rate, point delta, sample size.

Height (in-zone)

Zone	vs LHB	vs RHB
High	85% (lg 88%, -3 ball, n=106)	92% (lg 90%, +2 strike, n=100)
Middle	92% (lg 96%, -4 ball, n=119)	100% (lg 98%, +2 strike, n=140)
Low	90% (lg 92%, -1 ball, n=152)	86% (lg 92%, -6 ball, n=153)

Width (in-zone)

Zone	vs LHB	vs RHB
Inside	82% (lg 90%, -9 ball, n=82)	92% (lg 91%, +1 strike, n=104)
Middle	96% (lg 97%, -2 ball, n=120)	97% (lg 98%, -1 ball, n=125)
Away	89% (lg 89%, -1 ball, n=175)	90% (lg 92%, -2 ball, n=164)

Off-plate chase

Zone	vs LHB	vs RHB
Chase in	2% (lg 4%, -2 ball, n=291)	3% (lg 4%, -2 ball, n=300)
Chase away	3% (lg 4%, -1 ball, n=509)	5% (lg 5%, n=545)

Zone tendencies (vs league)

- vs LHB middle in: 84% called K on takes (-13 pp vs league, n=25) – leans more balls
- vs LHB low in: 76% called K on takes (-11 pp vs league, n=34) – leans more balls
- vs RHB low away: 81% called K on takes (-9 pp vs league, n=72) – leans more balls
- vs LHB inside: 82% called K on takes (-9 pp vs league, n=82) – leans more balls
- vs RHB low: 86% called K on takes (-6 pp vs league, n=153) – leans more balls

Broadcast line: James Jean runs a near league average zone overall (23.6% K / 12.9% BB in 16 HP games) – patient – no ejections in 2026. See height/width/chase tables above for LHB/RHB location lean. Factor ABS challenges accordingly.

19. ABS Challenge System: Team & Player Analysis

Team Challenge Ledger

Club / role	Challenges	Overtuned	Success %	K flipped	BB flipped	Net vs exp
San Diego Padres (SDP) – Hitters	86 (2nd worst MLB)	38	44.2% (7th worst MLB)	9	2	-8.0
San Diego Padres (SDP) – Pitching/Defense	132	74	56.1%	20	5	-8.0
Arizona Diamondbacks (ARI) – Hitters	97 (6th worst MLB)	54	55.7% (2nd best MLB)	12	5	+29.9 (5th best MLB)
Arizona Diamondbacks (ARI) – Pitching/Defense	102 (3rd worst MLB)	69	67.6% (2nd best MLB)	16	6	+29.9 (5th best MLB)

Behind the Plate: Catcher Duel

Catcher	Challenges	Overtuned	Success %	K gained	Net for
Freddy Fermin (SDP)	56	27	48.2%	13	-15.1
Luis Campusano (SDP)	53	32	60.4%	4	-1.5
Rodolfo Duran (SDP)	19	12	63.2%	3	+4.2
Gabriel Moreno (ARI)	53	35	66.0%	6	+9.1
James McCann (ARI)	37	24	64.9%	8	+5.3
Adrian Del Castillo (ARI)	10	9	90.0% (6th best MLB)	2	+3.4

- Broadcast line:** Quote these ledgers and ranks verbatim for challenge counts – the table above is the authoritative season ledger.

20. Cool Stats, On This Day & Context

Rare Facts & Historical Hooks

- All-Time Club Record Watch:** Manny Machado's 217 career REG HR as a Padre sit 54 clear of Nate Colbert (163) for the franchise lead, and his 392 career REG HR leave him 8 shy of 400.
- Career Split vs Tonight's Foe:** Machado has 23 career REG HR against Arizona in 114 games (429 AB) – 9 of them at Chase Field – and came in 3-for-5 with 4 RBI in last night's 9-4 win.
- Limited Look:** Casey Mize has faced Arizona exactly twice in his career – 7.2 IP, a 2.35 ERA, 0-0 with 11 strikeouts – one of the smallest career samples he owns against any NL club.
- First Meeting:** Rookie Mitch Bratt (MLB debut June 24, 2026) has never faced the Padres – 0 career games vs SDP entering tonight's first career look.
- Grand Slam Double-Dip:** Ty France owns two grand slams this season – June 19 at Texas, July 19 at Kansas City – and sits 3 career REG HR shy of 100.

On This Day (August 5)

- August 5, 2025:** SDP 10, ARI 5 (series echo) – Lourdes Gurriel 2 HR.
- August 5, 2023:** ARI 1, MIN 12 (ARI) – Ryan Jeffers 3-for-4, 2 HR.
- August 5, 2020:** LAD 7, SDP 6 (SDP) – Joc Pederson 2 HR, 5 RBI.
- August 5, 2016:** MIL 2, ARI 3 (ARI) – Yasmany Tomas 2 HR.
- August 5, 2014:** KCR 12, ARI 2 (ARI) – Billy Butler 4-for-5, 1 HR.
- August 5, 2011:** SDP 15, PIT 5 (SDP) – Chase Headley 5 RBI.
- August 5, 1929:** DET 5, MIN 21 (MLB-wide) – Buddy Myer 4-for-4, 1 HR, 7 RBI.

Milestones in Reach

- Corbin Carroll (ARI):** 98 career REG HR – **2** away from 100. next above: Monte Irvin (99, #1035) ARI franchise career REG rank **#11**; next ARI above: Matt Williams (99, #10)
- Ty France (SDP):** 97 career REG HR – **3** away from 100. next above: Danny Espinosa (98, #1042)
- Ildemaro Vargas (ARI):** 196 career REG RBI – **4** away from 200. next above: Goody Rosen (197, #2923) ARI franchise career REG rank **#60**; next ARI above: Danny Bautista (197, #28)
- Manny Machado (SDP):** 392 career REG HR – **8** away from 400. MLB career REG rank **#65**; next above: Jim Edmonds (393, #64) SDP franchise career REG rank **#1**

Last Meeting

- August 4, 2026 – SDP 9, ARI 4:** Manny Machado 2-for-5, 4 RBI; Jackson Merrill 2-for-5, 2 RBI; Jake Cronenworth 2-for-5, 1 RBI. Arizona's runs came on James McCann and Nolan Arenado homers (2-for-4 each, 2 RBI apiece); Geraldo Perdomo added 2 hits. The season series is dead even at 4-4 through eight games.

Recent Highlights

- August 4, 2026:** Machado (3-for-5, 4 RBI) and Merrill (3-for-5, 2 RBI) powered the Padres past Arizona 9-4.
- August 1, 2026:** Jake Cronenworth walked off the Giants 6-5; Ty France went 3-for-4 in the same game.
- August 2, 2026:** Jackson Merrill homered with 2 RBI against San Francisco.
- August 3, 2026:** Tim Tawa went 3-for-4 with 3 RBI against San Diego.
- August 1, 2026:** Arizona scored 12 runs in a 12-8 win over Cleveland – Perdomo 2-for-6 with 3 RBI, McCann 2-for-4 with 2 RBI, Carroll 2 hits including a homer and 3 RBI, Arenado 2 hits including a homer.

Broadcast line: The Padres' all-time home run king is one swing from 400 and has hit 23 of his 392 against this very club – with 9 of those landing in this building.