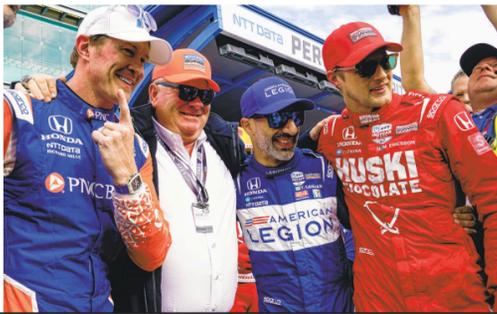


COLLEGE BASEBALL

USD, PLNU ADVANCE

Toreros beat Zags to reach 64-team NCAA tourney; Sea Lions on to 8-team D-II final. **D3**



MOTORSPORTS

BIG DAY

Chip Ganassi's team (left) has five strong entrants in today's Indy 500, the middle race of three on motorsports' biggest day. A look at all three. **D3**

WHEELS

COMFORT & ROOMY

Honda's Passport gets a much-needed update, new look. **D9**

SECTION **D**

The San Diego Union-Tribune

★ SUNDAY • MAY 29, 2022

SPORTS **SUN DAY**

PADRES STARTERS GO LONGER WHEN THEY FINALLY GET TO START

BY KEVIN ACEE

Sean Manaea was surprised when he looked at the video board at Petco Park before the start of Tuesday's game against the Brewers and saw how much Corbin Burnes had pitched already.



Sean Manaea

Burnes was making his ninth start. He makes his 10th today. No Padres starter will have 10 starts until Yu Darvish pitches Wednesday in St. Louis.

This is on purpose. The top three Padres starters are being relied on to do a lot. But not too much.

They're going deep in games. Deeper, by and large, than any other team's starters.

But they're also getting a lot of time between the games they pitch. Manager Bob Melvin is riding his horses, but he's not using the whip at this point. The hope is that down the stretch he will be able to.

SEE PADRES • **D4**

D4 • Manny Machado sits with case of tennis elbow.

PADRES STRAND TOO MANY

Musgrove solid but he's not around for decision vs. Bucs

BY JEFF SANDERS

Padres right-hander Joe Musgrove walked to the mound Saturday night with the NL's leading hitter nursing a balky elbow on the bench and just one hitter in his lineup with a batting average better than .235.

Somewhat predictably, he needed more help than he got.

The Padres stranded a season-high 16 runners, went 2-for-15 with runners in scoring position and paid dearly for it when Ke'Bryan Hayes tagged closer Taylor Rogers for a three-run homer in the ninth inning to

give the Pirates a 4-2 victory.

Trent Grisham's seventh-inning single, scoring Luke Voit from second base with two outs, was the Padres' first hit in their first 13 at-bats with runners in scoring position.

That gave the Padres a 2-1 lead that lasted until the ninth. The seventh began with Voit walking and moving to second on Jake Cronenworth's hard-hit ball off reliever Dillon Peters' foot, chasing him from the game. Chris Stratton immediately walked Myers and Austin Nola fled out to left for the second out. Grisham then pulled a ball to right to break a 1-1 tie.

The Padres also pushed

Pirates

4

Padres

2

across an unearned run in the second inning, but Eric Hosmer was robbed of a homer to lead off the third inning and the Padres left the bases loaded twice with Musgrove in the game. That all but ensured he'd walk off the mound empty-handed despite striking out seven batters and allowing a run on six hits and two walks.

Pirates' lone rally off Musgrove started with Josh VanMeter singling to center to open the fourth and moving to second on a ground ball to second. Jack Suwinski's ensuing single put runners on the corners and VanMeter scored when Musgrove couldn't flip the ball to Nola quickly enough on Michael Perez's tapper

Pirates at Padres



Today: 1:10 p.m., Petco Park

Pitchers: Pirates RHP Roansy Contreras (1-0, 2.13 ERA) vs. Padres LHP MacKenzie Gore (3-1, 2.06)

On the air: BSSD; 97.3-FM, 860-AM Spanish)

in front of the mound. Musgrove struck out the next two batters to escape further damage and in finished a ninth-straight quality start.

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ENIGMA OF MVP CAMINITI HAUNTS

New book examines beloved 'Cammy,' opening old wounds

BY TOM HOFFARTH

The concept of closure isn't necessarily what journalist Dan Good began chasing 10 years ago when he decided to reexamine the life and troubled times of the late Padres third baseman Ken Caminiti.

Then what else would there be to gain subjecting himself, and a cadre of Padres fans, with an exercise

that led to the completion of a new book, "Playing Through the Pain: Ken Caminiti and the Steroids Confession That Changed Baseball Forever," to be released Tuesday.

"Writing this book was a devastating process ... having interview subjects constantly crying — and you want to cry with them," said Good. "It's important to have a general understanding, more appreciation for who he was, the struggles he had, and for us to have more compassion."

"But closure — that is elusive. It can't be fully found

SEE CAMINITI • **D5**

ONLINE

An excerpt of the book is on sandiegouniontribune.com and will be in print Tuesday.

BREAK OUT THE BUBBLES



HAYNE PALMOUR IV FOR THE U-T

Granite Hills High softball players and coaches celebrate after defeating Poway 8-4 to win the CIF Division II championship game at UCSD on Saturday. The Eagles came through the losers' bracket, winning three straight games to reach the final. Calexico beat rival Holtville in Division III, and Escondido Charter outlasted Tri-City Christian in Division IV. Stories **D8**.

Women's tennis stars headed to San Diego for new, historic tourney



BRYCE MILLER Columnist

The staid name of the women's tennis tournament coming to San Diego in October fails to sell the real and significant sizzle.

The San Diego Open WTA 500 will land Oct. 8-16 at

Barnes Tennis Center. It hardly bear-hugs the marketing potential of memorable monikers like the

"We should have things like that here."

Ryan Redondo • CEO and GM of Barnes Tennis Center and Youth Tennis San Diego

Super Bowl, Frozen Four or Royal Rumble.

Why does the tournament matter so mightily?

Because it means serve-and-volley royalty like Naomi Osaka, Sloane Stephens, Coco Gauff, Madison Keys and former world No. 1 Simona Halep could be lured to play, with Grand Slam winner Serena Williams and sister Venus

offering a reason to dream. Because it becomes the highest-level tournament — men's or women's — to be played in San Diego proper.

Because, in a city starved for the cream of the crop in sports, here they come.

"You can see the best athletes in the world up close and personal," said tournament director Ryan Redondo, the CEO and GM of

Barnes and Youth Tennis San Diego. "It's a boutique-style event, so they'll be 10 feet away from you at times."

"You want to be in the Olympic Village? You'll be in the Olympic Village here."

The last time WTA tennis was played in San Diego County was 2015, a 125-level tournament at

SEE MILLER • **D7**

S.D.-bound women's tennis

The inaugural San Diego Open WTA 500 will feature the world's top women's tennis players.

When, where: Oct. 8-16, Barnes Tennis Center.

Format: The \$823,000 tournament will feature a 32-player singles draw and 16-team doubles draw.

More info: www.wtasdopen.com

PADRES MINOR LEAGUE REPORT

COUNT CASTILLO AMONG PITCHERS WHO MIGHT HELP

BY JEFF SANDERS

The trade deadline is still more than two months away, but the Padres certainly won't have to wait that long to add bullets to their bullpen.

Adrian Morejon and Michel Baez are already on the second stops of their Tommy John rehab tour and Drew Pomeranz is nearing his own rehab assignment. Beyond those three, another arm is forcing his way into the conversation:

Left-hander Jose Castillo.

The 26-year-old Venezuelan struck out two more batters over a scoreless inning in Triple-A El Paso's 9-5 win over Sugar Land.

Through 10 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings this year, Castillo has allowed just one unearned run and penned a 13-to-2 strikeout-to-walk ratio while moving from low Single-A Lake Elsinore to start his rehab assignment up to El Paso, where he saw his first game action since 2019.

At that time, Castillo was coming off a stellar 2018 rookie season with the Padres in which he struck out 52 batters while compiling a 3.29 ERA and a 0.91 WHIP over 38 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings.

But Castillo missed the first four months of 2019 with a flexor strain and exited his first game back with a sea-



K.C. ALFRED THE U-T

Pitcher Jose Castillo got back on the field with Triple-A El Paso this season after three years on the shelf with injuries, and he could be a candidate to help Padres.

son-ending torn tendon in his middle finger.

A lat strain prevented Castillo from pitching in the COVID-19-shortened 2020 season, and Tommy John wiped away 2021.

Castillo was non-tendered after the season but

chose to return to the Padres on a minor league deal.

To be sure, the Padres are in no need to rush Castillo — who is sitting 92-94 mph with his fastball and 83-85 mph with his slider — but he's beginning to force his way into the conversation.

Around the farm

El Paso (AAA): SS CJ Abrams has hits in his last three games (6-for-12). He'd gone 4-for-42 (.095) after homering three times in his first two games following his demotion from San Diego. The 21-year-old infielder is

Organizational leaders

(Through Friday; min. 113 plate appearances, 33 innings pitched)

Batting average: .348 — OF Nomar Mazara (AAA)

On-base percentage: .478 — OF Estevy Ruiz (AA)

Slugging percentage: .579 — Ruiz

Homers: 11 — 1B Aderlin Rodriguez (AAA)

RBIs: 40 — Rodriguez

Steals: 33 — 2B Max Ferguson (A)

Wins: 4 — LHP Tom Cosgrove (AA), LHP Osvaldo Hernandez (AA), RHP Felix Minjarez (A+)

ERA: 3.05 — RHP Jesse Scholtens (AAA)

WHIP: 1.15 — RHP Jairo Iriarte (A)

Saves: 4 — RHP Angel Felipe (AA)

Strikeouts: 48 — LHP Robert Gasser (A+)

SO/W: 15.0 — RHP Thomas Eshelman (AA / AAA)

hitting .234/.300/.391 through his first 14 games in the Pacific Coast League.

San Antonio (AA): CF Estevy Ruiz went 0-for-5 on May 22 to snap a 44-game on-base streak that dated back to the end of the 2021 season. He's since reached base in four straight games and is hitting .340/.478/.579 with six homers and a Texas League-best 32 steals. In all of professional baseball, only Lake Elsinore INF Max Ferguson (33) has swiped more bases.

Fort Wayne (A+): OF Robert Hassell III was 3-for-29 over seven games be-

fore sitting out both games of Thursday's doubleheader. Friday's game was rained out. The 20-year-old is hitting .301/.371/.449 with six homers, 27 RBIs and 15 steals.

Lake Elsinore (A): Lucas Dunn, last year's eighth-round pick out of Louisville, has been a jack-of-all-trades for the Storm, starting games at third base (16), first base (6), left field (5), second base (3) and catcher (2). Dunn is hitting .312/.443/.522 with two homers, 33 RBIs and 11 steals.

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DIGEST

USD'S HOLMGREN FALLS IN THIRD SET IN NCAA FINALE

A historic season with countless accolades came to an end for sixth-seeded August Holmgren of the University of San Diego men's tennis team, as the senior fell in the NCAA Singles championship match to Florida's No. 1-seeded Ben Shelton, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, at Champaign, Ill.

"It's tough to put into words what August has done for this program," Toreros coach Ryan Keckley told USD media officials. "He deserves all the praise he gets because of what he puts into his game and what he has done for USD tennis. Today wasn't the outcome we wanted, but this week showed you just how good August is and how much faith we have in him to take that next step into his career as a professional athlete. August will go down as one of the best to play the game for the Toreros!"

Holmgren took an early 2-0 lead in the first set, but Shelton answered with three straight. After Shelton went up 30-0 in the next game, Holmgren swept the next four points to lock it at 3-3. Holmgren eventually won the first, 6-4.

Shelton jumped out to a 4-1 lead in the second set, and eventually won, 6-3. In the third set, Shelton took the first two games, but Holmgren bounced back to cut the deficit to 2-1. Shelton responded with four of the next five points to seal the win.

Shelton's singles national championship comes a year after teammate Sam Riffice won the 2021 title. Riffice advanced to the semifinals this year before losing to Holmgren.

More colleges

The UC San Diego baseball team closed out its second season of Division I competition with a 3-1 victory at CSUN. The Tritons (24-32, 13-17 Big West) were led by Michael Fuhrman, who finished 2-for-3 with an RBI.

The Palomar College baseball team (37-12) dropped an 11-5 decision to Ohlone College (45-4) of Fremont in the first round of the state community college tournament.

The wait was worth it for the Maryland men's lacrosse team. The top-seeded Terrapins started their NCAA tournament semifinal in East Hartford, Conn., four hours late after weather snarled the day's schedule, then finished off Princeton, 13-8, to move within a victory of an undefeated season. Maryland (17-0) will meet seventh-seeded Cornell (13-4), a 17-10 winner over sixth-seeded Rutgers, in Monday's title game.

Locally

El Cajon's Christian Craig finished third in the 450 cc division at the U.S. Nationals Motocross tour event at Fox Raceway in Pala. Chase Sexton and Ken Roczen finished first and second in the 450. In the 250 event, brothers Jeff and Hunter Lawrence from Australia were 1-2. This is the first stop of a 12-race series.

The San Diego Legion lost, 44-28, on the road against Austin Gilgronis at Bold Stadium in Austin, Texas. The Legion finished the regular season with a record of 8-8, missing the Major League Rugby playoffs.

The San Diego Strike Force (2-8) lost to the Duke City Gladiators, 54-49, at the Rio Rancho Center in Albuquerque, N.M., in Indoor Football League play.

The Colorado Mammoth beat the host San Diego Seals, 15-13, in the NLL West Conference finals. The Mammoth will now face the Buffalo Bandits in the NLL finals.

The San Diego Loyal gave up two goals in extra time and had to settle for a 2-2 tie at the LA Galaxy II in USL Championship action. Charlie Adams and Kyle Vassell scored first-half goals for the Loyal.

Track and field

Olympic gold medalist Elaine Thompson-Herah of Jamaica held off American Sha'Carri Richardson in the 100 meters



AMANDA LOMAN AP

Sha'Carri Richardson comes in second in the women's 100M in the Prefontaine Classic on Saturday.

at a rainy Prefontaine Classic. Thompson-Herah won golds in the 100 and 200 and the 400 relay at the Tokyo Olympics. She defended her Pre title in 10.79 seconds, in front of Richardson in 10.92. Trayvon Bromell raised his arms in victory before crossing the finish line of the men's 100 in 9.93 seconds. He crossed the line ahead of Fred Kerley and defending world champion Christian Coleman. American Michael Norman won the 400 in a meet-record 43.60. He won at the trials last year and finished fifth in the event at the Olympics, but now has his sights set on worlds.

Hockey

Defenseman Miro Heiskanen had a goal and two assists and Finland beat the United States 4-3 to set up its third straight world hockey championship final against Canada. Dylan Cozens scored twice in Canada's 6-1 victory over the Czech Republic in the other semifinal.

Soccer

Brian Rodriguez scored the deciding goal in a 3-2 MLS win for LAFC over the visiting San Jose Earthquakes. Rodriguez's game-winner came in the 47th minute for LAFC (9-3-2) and was the only goal scored in the second half. LAFC jumped out to a 2-0 lead on Christian Arango's penalty-kick score in the eighth minute and a goal by Ryan Hollingshead in the 13th. Jeremy Ebobisse scored two goals for the Earthquakes (3-6-5) — in the 16th and 31st minutes — to knot the score at 2.

The sale of Premier League club Chelsea to a consortium fronted by Los Angeles Dodgers part-owner Todd Boehly is expected to be completed Monday. The club says in a statement that "a final and definitive agreement was entered into last night" to sell to the Boehly and Clearlake Capital consortium. The price is 2.5 billion pounds (\$3.2 billion) — the highest ever for a sports team. The club says "It is expected that the transaction will be completed on Monday."

WNBA

A'ja Wilson had 22 points and 16 rebounds, Dearica Hamby added 14 and 12, and Las Vegas (8-1) beat the defending-champion Chicago Sky (4-3) 83-76 for the Aces' sixth consecutive win.

DeWanna Bonner, Alyssa Thomas and Courtney Williams all scored 14 points and the Connecticut Sun (6-2) beat Washington (6-3) 79-71 to move past the Mystics atop the Eastern Conference standings.

Also

Gervonta Davis regained his knock-out power and retained his lightweight title after stopping Orlando Romero in the sixth round at New York. Davis landed a crushing left hand near the corner and Romero fell forward into the ropes. He struggled and got up but was wobbly the whole way and referee David Fields ended the fight.

U-T NEWS SERVICES

CAMINITI

FROM D1 here."

More than 400 interviews later (most notably, the first on-record discussion with Caminiti's boyhood friend and steroid program supervisor Dave Moretti), combing through hundreds of documents and stories, and condensing it as best he could into some 130,000 words, there is no rewriting history with the last chapter of Caminiti's drug-induced death in October 2004 at age 41.

But that tragic event — eight years after receiving the only National League MVP award in Padres history, and nearly 12 years before his induction into the team's Hall of Fame — can't be his defining moment either, Good decided.

A Millersville (Pa.) University grad and former reporter with the New York Daily News and New York Post, plus NBC and ABC News, Good explains his intent, new discoveries and what he hopes fans take away about the three-time All-Star who spent four important seasons with the Padres in the late '90s, including a trip to the World Series, to highlight a 15-year MLB career:

"You've brought up many things that trouble baseball as well as the world — societal views on addiction, trauma, moral ambiguities around performance-enhancing drugs in baseball during the 1990s. People cling to narratives. Can you reconnecting with this, with Caminiti in particular, help fans become more empathetic to what you think more accurately happened?"

"I think so. I was always intrigued by the depth of the steroid thing because I grew up a baseball fan in the '90s when the game was so much fun. The 1994 strike was difficult, but you had Cal Ripken and the consecutive game streak, Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa in the home run races ... it was awesome. Now this whole era has been tainted by things they were putting in their bodies. Obviously steroids played a role, but PEDs have been in the game in one form or another for decades.

Look at Ken's case. He has a friend setting up steroid programs for other players. This balloons into this huge thing. Dozens of players are working through this pipeline to get steroids. It's interesting to think how Ken was the ultimate competitor but he never looked at steroids as something that would only help him or his team. It was to help everybody. Maybe that was the collegial nature for players uniting in the post-strike era, to come back from injury, to put up good numbers, get a better contract from the owners. We've focused on Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens, McGwire, Caminiti, but so many others used who aren't getting headlines or scrutiny. It was a huge hypocrisy that everyone knew. I hope the people will have new understanding about all that, to that era, because that era deserves another look.

Caminiti became a poster boy for it because of his honesty, the focus of a Sports Illustrated steroid expose in 2002. Twenty years later, we can have a better perspective of all that?"

Ken's honesty is what always has separated him. When McGwire came out in 2009 and admitted to using steroids, it was ham-handed in how he tried to say he wasn't sure how it helped him. Those admissions were so bogus. Ken was one of the only who stood up and said, yes, I used it, it was helpful ... And some people lose sight of the fact that he was an All-Star without steroids. It's interesting to see the conditions that allowed him to decide to start using. Physical decline, wanting to help the team, to get a contract, they all jelled together.

"Today, more are open about mental health, especially from this pandemic disruption. Caminiti was getting mental health therapy from the MLB's Employee Assistance Program. But you've pieced together new information about how he was a sexual abuse victim while in middle school in San Jose. How did that come about?"

"It was really difficult to try to make sense of that. I talked once to his attorney (Terry Yates) who very cryptically talked about a childhood trauma that fueled his addictions. It stunned me. The problem is with people who go through some trauma, they wall off these things and even those close to them may not know the truth. I talked to by happenstance two people in two different places who went to rehab with him and they heard the same stories, but the details weren't clear. What Ken told these people in rehab, it fits together with a lot of other things, so I felt comfortable including it. It spoke to me that it was the truth — and it was devastating and tragic to piece that together, and also tragic on a separate note for all those people who tried to help him through the years not knowing what had gone on and what he was up against.

"Which Padres-related people did you find most helpful revisiting this?"

"Bruce Bochy was my favorite, and he pulled a lot of things together. I connected with Greg Vaughn through Facebook, Ken's roommate who became fast friends with him. I got interesting perspectives from John Moores, Kevin Towers, Rob Picciolo, Bob Tewksbury, Jim Leyritz ... Ted Leitner was great, too, with so many colorful things to say. Sadly, Tony Gwynn had passed away before I could talk to him. And there were so many I didn't get to talk to, people who told me it was too painful a subject. I completely understand and respect that.

"Manny Machado's MVP-type season thus far can evoke Caminiti's name coming up again. How do you find parallels?"

"Machado is obviously the best all-around third baseman the Padres have had since Ken, but I see Machado as more (a player) who makes things look a lot easier than Ken did. That was one of the endearing things about Ken. He made things look tough and there was a toughness about him. It's interesting to see that counter-balance and appreciating it anew that he is a really special player doing really special things. The styles may be different but the talent and output is there.

"What about the book's stark cover resonates with you?"

"I was moved by it. I wanted it to convey a connection to the themes and the emotions carried. The photo of him from the '98 World Series, and he's crouching down to re-focus, to gather himself, balance out and reflect. It is a powerful way to convey what is in the book.

"In 2020 during the pandemic, you tweeted out about how cool you thought it was to see Caminiti's cardboard cutout in the seats behind home plate at Petco Park with his former teammates. Why was that special?"

"He's there with Gwynn, Vaughn, Bochy, Kevin Towers, Steve Finley ... It was a chance for people to remember him. And that's what I think is important.

There was a quote Ken's probation officer gave me about that. She spoke about how in the year after he passed away, she would use his name as a way to remind others about staying on the right track. But as time went by, she could sense people wouldn't know who she was talking about. I don't think that's the right thing, to just move on.

I was proud of the way the Padres honored him for their Hall of Fame and the cardboard cutout was a connection to that era and that team and it honored him. I think those Padres years were the most special of his career, even though he spent more time in Houston. I think he felt a deeper connection to San Diego and the fans there. They embraced him in a special way. You see Caminiti jerseys still at games. That's a neat thing.

"What is the ultimate takeaway in your opinion? A cautionary tale worthy of the time investment?"

"His story is so compelling but if we let things go and move on, what do we learn from them? I hope people can be less judgmental. Through this process, I learned that. When people fall on tough times, it's easy to look down on them. I don't think we should do that. People can use more sensitivity and compassion.

There's also a misconception about his coming back from shoulder surgery because steroids must have helped him come back so quickly. He did not use steroids during his rehab. I know it's a minor thing, but that adds to a narrative. There are nuances to understand.

You look at how big an impact he had in San Diego in those days. Does Petco Park get built without his contribution? I don't know, but it's a fair question. There was so much he did to help the team get over the hump in '96, build credibility, help the team in '98 as much as he could.

It was special for me to take that walk and learn more about his life. As difficult as it was, I feel it was a valuable process and journey. I still appreciate him. I still adore him. I'm honored to write this book.

I know it's not for everybody and people are going to have difficulty with aspects of it, but I hope people recognize the care and thought put into it and they can appreciate it for what it is and help people in some way.

Hofarth is a freelance writer.