

Sports



D3 Chris Kreider scores twice to help the Rangers defeat the Hurricanes 6-2 in Game 7 of their series.

CAMMY'S SWEET HOMERS BECOME LEGEND

This is an excerpt from Dan Good's book "Playing Through the Pain: Ken Caminiti and the Steroids Confession That Changed Baseball Forever," which is being released today. It has been printed with the permission of Abrams Press. The excerpt recounts Ken's infamous "Snickers game" on August 18, 1996, when he battled food poisoning to hit two home runs during the Padres' series in Mexico against the Mets.

BY DAN GOOD

Ken started to feel sick. At first, he didn't know what was wrong. His stomach was doing somersaults. His forearms, calves, and hamstrings cramped.

As it turns out, Ken had eaten salad, failing to follow the food instructions the team had given to each player before the trip. And now he was paying the price. Food poisoning — Montezuma's revenge. After a sleepless night, much of it spent in the bathroom, Ken was back at the ballpark white as a sheet and badly dehydrated. Manager Bruce Bochy was in his office when the team's assistant trainer, Todd Hutcheson, and team doctor Jan Fronck put Ken on an adjacent table, using a coat hanger for a makeshift IV.

"He can't play," Hutcheson told Bochy.

After one bag of solution, Caminiti "started focusing a little better." So they gave him another bag. All the while, Bochy saw no way he was going to submit a lineup card with Caminiti's name on it.

As game time approached, Bochy prepared to walk with his lineup card to home plate. He still didn't see how his third baseman was going to be ready for game time.

"I'm going down, Kenny, maybe we can use you later in the game," Bochy told

SEE CAMINITI • D5



JEFF ROBERSON AP

Manny Machado questions home plate umpire Lance Barksdale after striking out, as Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina looks on in the seventh inning Monday. Barksdale ruled Machado foul-tipped the ball and interfered with Molina as he tried to throw out a runner.

PADRES GIVE CARDS TOO MANY CHANCES

St. Louis' first two runs come in third after Cronenworth can't get Edman on tough grounder

BY KEVIN ACEE

ST. LOUIS

Nick Martinez made what is likely his final start for a while a quality one. But it wasn't a victory.

The Cardinals got an extra chance in the third inning and may have benefited from a phantom call by the home plate umpire in the seventh, took advantage of both and held off the Padres for a 6-3 victory Monday afternoon at Busch Stadium.

Opening a seven-game road trip, the Padres took a 1-0 lead in the top of the third but went down 2-1 moments later when a grounder up the middle that appeared it would end the bot-

tom of the inning did not and Nolan Gorman followed with a two-run homer.

The deficit grew to 3-1 in the fifth inning before the Padres got a run back in the sixth. Paul Goldschmidt's two-run homer and Yadier Molina's RBI double off Steven Wilson in the seventh inning pushed the Cardinals' lead to 6-2. The Padres scored once and had the tying run at the plate in the ninth before Eric Hosmer grounded into a game-ending double play.

Martinez, who is likely to return to the bullpen later this week when Mike

Clevinger rejoins the rotation, made it through six innings having allowed three earned runs, the exact qualification for a quality start. It was Martinez's second quality start and the 27th by the Padres, most by any team.

"He pitched better when he had to," manager Bob Melvin said of Martinez, who yielded seven hits and walked four. "He had a couple of jams he had to get out of. ... And it kept us in a game. Obviously, when he came out it was still really close."

The Cardinals were leading 3-2 after six innings when the Padres had a

SEE PADRES • D5

Padres at Cardinals



Today: 4:45 p.m., Busch Stadium, St. Louis

Pitchers: Padres LHP Blake Snell (0-2, 6.00 ERA) vs. Cardinals RHP Adam Wainwright (5-4, 3.12 ERA)

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

WILL THIS BE LAST NADAL VS. DJOKOVIC SHOWDOWN?

They are both over age 34, and King of Clay has battled recurring left foot ailment

BY HOWARD FENDRICH

PARIS

This French Open is the first Grand Slam tournament in a year with both Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal in the field. And anyone who enjoys men's tennis — or, indeed, sports — should be thrilled that those two titans of the game will face each other for a record 59th time.

Is it a shame today's match is "only" a quarterfinal, instead of something with more at stake? Perhaps. Will that dissuade anyone from watching from afar or dull the atmosphere that'll envelop Court Philippe Chatrier? Doubtful.

Could it decrease the intensity of each player's performance? Not a chance.

"I'm ready for it," Djokovic said. "I hope to be able to give myself a chance to play at the highest level possible," Nadal said, "and then let's see." So then the question that Nadal will have on his mind — and we know so because he said so — and Djokovic might, too, is: How many more of these showdowns are there going to be?

First of all, Nadal turns 36 on Friday; Djokovic turned 35 on May 22, the first day of the French Open.

"I don't know what can happen in the near future with my career," Nadal



MICHEL EULER AP

Serbia's Novak Djokovic should be well rested for today's match after breezing past Argentina's Diego Schwartzman in the fourth round.

French Open

(5) Rafael Nadal vs. (1) Novak Djokovic

Today: 11:45 a.m., Roland Garros, Paris

On the air: Tennis Channel (tournament coverage began at 3 a.m.)

said.

His body has been a big issue over the past 12 months. He missed the last half of last season, including Wimbledon and the U.S. Open, because of chronic pain in his left foot that flared

up again in recent weeks. After his 20-0 start to 2022, he missed three tournaments because of a rib injury.

"I can't complain much," Nadal said, noting that 2½ weeks ago he had no idea whether he'd make it this far.

"Being honest, every match that I play here, I don't know if it's going to be my last match here in Roland Garros. That's my situation now," he said after edging 21-year-old Felix Auger-Aliassime in five sets Sunday. "That's why I am just trying to enjoy as much as possible."

Auger-Aliassime said Nadal did not appear to be hampered or slowed at all during their fourth-round

SEE FRENCH • D2

TOREROS BULLISH ON CHANCES AT REGIONAL

In NCAA's for first time since '13, USD heading to Corvallis

BY KIRK KENNEY

It had been nine years since the University of San Diego baseball team gathered in the school's Warren Hospitality Suite for the NCAA Division I Tournament Selection Show.

USD renewed the tradition on Monday morning, with Toreros players and coaches crowded into the suite with a couple dozen family members and friends.

It was a festive atmosphere, USD secure in the knowledge that it was included in the 64-team field by virtue of Saturday's 11-inning, 15-12 victory over Gonzaga for the West Coast Conference Tournament championship.

The automatic regionals berth eliminated a lot of anxiety.

Had USD been among those teams sweating it out for an at-large entry, the Toreros would have been on pins and needles waiting to see "San Diego" flashed on the television screen.

USD was the 63rd team named. The Toreros (36-18) were assigned to the four-team Corvallis Regional. The only team that had to wait longer than USD to learn its fate was Vanderbilt,

the Toreros' opponent in Friday's 1 p.m. (ESPNU) opener.

Regional host Oregon State (44-15), the No. 1 seed in the regional and No. 3 national seed, will open against No. 4 New Mexico State (24-32) on Friday at 7 p.m.

"I couldn't be more proud of my guys to see them embrace the moment and take it all in today," first-year USD head coach Brock Ungricht said. "It hasn't happened in nine years. It's about making it (back), but to see them fired up to play, to get ready to get back on the road and get back out there, that's special."

The winner of the Corvallis Regional advances to next week's best-of-three Super Regionals against the winner of the Auburn Regional that includes host Auburn, UCLA, Florida State and Southeastern Louisiana.

The eight Super Regional winners advance to the 75th College World Series, which will be played June 16-27 in Omaha, Neb.

This is the ninth NCAA Tournament appearance for the Toreros. It is the first trip since the Kris Bryant-led 2013 team qualified, when most of these Toreros were in middle school.

"It's a really cool feeling," said USD catcher Caleb Ricketts, who was named WCC tournament MVP after

SEE TOREROS • D6

PADRES

On Deck **POWELL**
presented by **Jeep Dodge RAM**



THE SERIES
Padres at Cardinals

GAME 2 4:45 p.m., today

Padres LHP Blake Snell
0-2, 6.00 ERA

He threw 84 pitches in his first start and 104 pitches in his second and is expected to be "without limitations," as Padres manager Bob Melvin said.

Cardinals RHP Adam Wainwright
5-4, 3.12 ERA

He has 14 career starts against the Padres, including two last year (10 IP, 8 ER) and one in the 2020 postseason (3 1/3 IP, 2 ER).

Wednesday: Padres
RHP Yu Darvish (4-2, 3.76 ERA) at Cardinals RHP Dakota Hudson (3-2, 3.22 ERA), 10:15 a.m.

PADRES REPORT

AZOCAR ADJUSTING TO BIG LEAGUES

BY KEVIN ACEE

ST. LOUIS
Eric Hosmer is among those who noticed the incremental improvement.

He told Padres rookie Jose Azocar the other day it was only a matter of time before he got comfortable facing big-league pitchers and they began to fear him.

"I am getting more (at-bats), and I am getting more into a rhythm with the pitchers," Azocar said Monday after the Padres' 6-3 loss to the Cardinals, in which he went 2-for-3 with a walk and threw out a runner at second base for the first outfield assist of his career.

Azocar made the team out of spring training primarily as a defensive replacement and pinch runner and now, while he does not have enough plate appearances to be an official qualifier, has the Padres' third-highest batting average (.259) and fourth-highest on-base percentage (.328).

The average has risen 65 points and the OBP 43 points over his past nine games, as Azocar has gone 8-for-23 with two walks.

"You get better and better and better," he said. "You feel confident at the plate. And all the reports we have on the pitchers, now you start understanding why they say what they say before you go up to hit."

Azocar marveled at the thoroughness of the scouting reports provided to major league hitters every game, detailing a pitcher's arsenal and what he is most likely to throw in certain counts and situations. Pregame hitters' meetings are also new to a player who spent nine years in the minors.

Azocar has started six of the past eight games, spelling left fielder Jurickson Profar once, filling in for struggling center fielder Trent Grisham against left-handed starters three times and replacing the injured Wil Myers in right field the past two games.



Padres' Ha-Seong Kim tags out Cardinals' Nolan Gorman at second after taking throw from Jose Azocar.

"He's doing a nice job, whether it's with drawing walks, getting on base, hitting the ball the other way," manager Bob Melvin said. "He made a nice play and a nice throw in the outfield. He's played really well for a guy that probably was the last guy on the team."

He's good

Manny Machado played Monday after a weekend off to let the effects of a cortisone shot set in on his right elbow.

"I'm good," Machado said after going 1-for-5.

Melvin confirmed the cortisone shot had been given after two days of the team saying only that Machado was sitting due to "tennis elbow," an injury Machado has been dealing with for a while.

Monday's start was Machado's 1,042nd since the start of the 2015 season, most in the majors.

"For a guy like him to acknowledge he needs to do something with it, it hurts," Melvin said. "So that's why

he had an injection." Machado does not talk about injuries. So it was with another "I'm good" that he confirmed the treatment he received should allow him to move forward without impediment.

Tatis on road

Fernando Tatis Jr. is with the Padres on this trip, happy "to be with the boys" and also looking forward to getting back home.

That is when he will have the next CT scan on his right wrist, which will tell the Padres whether their star shortstop can begin swinging a bat. The last scan was, according to Melvin, "just short" of the healing threshold that would allow that next step in Tatis' return from March 16 surgery.

Tatis, who is expected back in late June, worked at the team's complex in Arizona while the Padres were on their past two road trips. He can do virtually everything while with the team that he was doing there (running,

throwing, taking grounders, treatment). And this gets him out of the triple-digit heat in Arizona.

"Thank God," he said. When Tatis is cleared to swing, he will begin with dry swings and progress to hitting off a tee before hitting in the cage and then taking batting practice and eventually facing live pitching.

While the timeline will be fluid as he takes each step, he could begin a rehab assignment around the third week of June. The duration of that stay in the minors will also be fluid, depending largely on how quickly he regains his timing.

"Are we talking about 10 games? Talking about five games? I don't know," Melvin said. "I think it probably is more play it by ear and see how things go. The shorter the rehab, the tougher it is probably to play him every day when he comes back. Certainly, the DH spot comes into play too. But that's a tough one to forecast yet until we actually

get him swinging."

Myers' return imminent

Myers went through a rigorous workout Monday morning to test his right knee. He was available off the bench but didn't play for a second straight game. He is expected to be in the lineup today.

Myers wore a brace on the knee and said the issue "is a little more than" the patellar tendinitis that bothered him from time-to-time last season. He also downplayed its severity.

"It's just some of those things you deal with," Myers said. "But every big-leaguer ... has something going on. Everybody deals with things, and you just deal with it and go on down the road. I'm fine. This is how the body works sometimes. Some days are better than others. Some days it's like I can't really move it, some days the rehab really works. The body is wild."

kevin.acee@suniontribune.com

Cardinals 6, Padres 3

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Av.
Profar lf	5	0	3	1	0	2	.233
Machado 3b	5	0	1	0	2	.353	
Hosmer 1b	5	0	0	0	1	.312	
Voit dh	4	0	0	0	2	.202	
Cronenworth 2b	4	1	2	0	1	.213	
Kim ss	3	0	1	0	1	.225	
Nola c	4	0	2	1	0	.223	
Grisham cf	4	0	0	0	2	.160	
Azocar rf	3	2	3	1	0	.259	
Totals	37	3	11	3	13		

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Av.
Edman ss-2b	5	1	2	1	0	1	.282
Gorman 2b	3	2	3	2	1	.387	
Dickerson lf	1	0	0	0	1	.180	
Goldschmidt 1b	3	1	1	2	1	.352	
Arenado 3b	4	0	0	0	0	.265	
Yeppez lf	3	0	1	0	1	.276	
1-Nootbaar pr-rf	0	1	0	0	0	.115	
Pujols dh	2	0	0	0	2	.213	
Molina c	4	0	1	1	0	.235	
Donovan rf	2	1	0	1	0	.294	
a-Sosa ph-ss	1	0	0	0	1	.224	
Bader cf	4	0	1	0	0	.255	
Totals	32	6	10	6	6		

San Diego	001	001	001	-3	11	0
St. Louis	002	010	30x	-6	10	0

—struck out for Donovan in the 7th, 1-run for Yeppez in the 7th. **LOB**—San Diego 9, St. Louis 8. **2B**—Azocar (2), Cronenworth (8), Molina (4). **HR**—Gorman (2), off Martinez; Goldschmidt (11), off Wilson. **RBI**s—Profar (23), Nola (14), Machado (28), Gorman (7), Edman (22), Goldschmidt (42), Molina (9). **SB**—Edman (11).

Runners left in scoring position—San Diego 1 (Grisham); St. Louis 3 (Sosa 2, Bader). **RISP**—San Diego 3 for 6; St. Louis 2 for 6. **GDP**—Hosmer, Arenado.

DP—San Diego 1 (Machado, Cronenworth, Hosmer); St. Louis 1 (Edman, Sosa, Goldschmidt).

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Martinez, L, 2-3	6	7	3	4	2	93	3.94	
Wilson	2/3	3	3	2	0	32	5.09	
Hill	1/3	0	0	0	2	15	6.10	

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Naughton	2/3	2	1	0	4	40	3.09	
Pallante, W, 1-0	3/3	5	1	0	5	53	1.07	
Galleagos, H, 1	1	0	0	0	2	25	3.06	
Cabrera, H, 7	1	0	0	1	17	2.14		
Helsley	1/3	2	1	1	1	19	0.51	

Inherited runners scored—Hill 2-0, Pallante 1-1, Galleagos 1-1, Cabrera 1-0, Helsley 1-0. **Umpires**—Home, Lance Barksdale; First, Ted Barrett; Second, Nestor Ceja; Third, Chris Segal. **T**—3:33. **A**—42,140 (45,494).

DP—San Diego 1 (Machado, Cronenworth, Hosmer); St. Louis 1 (Edman, Sosa, Goldschmidt).

How they scored

Padres third. Trent Grisham grounds out to shallow right field, Paul Goldschmidt to Pacy Naughton. Jose Azocar doubles to center field. Jurickson Profar singles to shallow center field. Jose Azocar scores. Manny Machado strikes out swinging. Eric Hosmer strikes out swinging. **Padres 1, Cardinals 0.**

Cardinals third. Brendan Donovan grounds out to shallow infield, Ha-Seong Kim to Eric Hosmer. Harrison Bader lines out to deep left field to Jurickson Profar. Tommy Edman singles to shallow infield. Nolan Gorman homers to right field. Tommy Edman scores. Paul Goldschmidt walks. Nolan Arenado pops out to shortstop to Manny Machado. **Cardinals 2, Padres 1.**

Cardinals fifth. Brendan Donovan singles to left field. Harrison Bader singles to center field. Brendan Donovan to third. Tommy Edman singles to center field. Harrison Bader to third. Brendan Donovan scores. Nolan Gorman walks. Paul Goldschmidt pops out to shallow center field to Jake Cronenworth. Nolan Arenado grounds out to shortstop. Nolan Gorman out at second. **Cardinals 3, Padres 1.**

Padres sixth. Luke Voit grounds out to shortstop. Tommy Edman to Paul Goldschmidt. Jake Cronenworth doubles to shallow left field. Ha-Seong Kim called out on strikes. Austin Nola singles to left field. Jake Cronenworth scores. Trent Grisham pops out to shortstop to Nolan Arenado. **Cardinals 3, Padres 2.**

Cardinals seventh. Tommy Edman grounds out to shallow infield, Manny Machado to Eric Hosmer. Nolan Gorman singles to right center field. Paul Goldschmidt homers to center field. Nolan Gorman scores. Nolan Arenado lines out to center field to Trent Grisham. Juan Ypez walks. Albert Pujols walks. Lars Nootbaar to second. Yadier Molina doubles to center field. Albert Pujols to third. Lars Nootbaar scores. Edmundo Sosa pinch-hitting for Brendan Donovan. Edmundo Sosa strikes out swinging. **Cardinals 6, Padres 2.**

Padres ninth. Trent Grisham strikes out swinging. Jose Azocar walks. Jurickson Profar singles to right field. Jose Azocar to second. Manny Machado singles to center field. Jurickson Profar to second. Jose Azocar scores. Eric Hosmer grounds out to second base. Manny Machado out at second. **Cardinals 6, Padres 3.**

CAMINITI

FROM D1

him. "Hold on," Caminiti responded, following his manager.

"Cammy, just stay there," Bochy told him.

"Hey, I'm good. I'm good."

"Cammy, I can't put you in there."

"Look at me, I'm telling you — I feel great. I just needed some IV." Bochy paused.

"Sure enough, he talked me into it," Bochy said.

The team planned to keep a close eye on Caminiti. He slipped on his uniform just before 4:05, game time. He stepped onto the field and ran two sprints. The sun was beating down, and Hutcherson was putting eye black "stickers" on outfielder Steve Finley's cheeks. Caminiti yelled to "Hutch" for a Snickers, the gooey chocolate bar featuring peanuts, caramel, and nougat. But given the noise from the cheering fans, Hutcherson misheard Ken and brought Caminiti a batch of the eye black stickers.

"Not stickers. I said Snickers," Caminiti told Hutcherson. Ken quickly got his candy bar and scarfed it down.

Leading off in the second, Ken stood outside the left-handed batter's box, his helmet bill pulled nearly over his eyes. He inhaled and exhaled, his breathing labored.

He grimaced as he stepped into the box and set his bat.

Paul Wilson delivered, and Caminiti swung through the first pitch, late.

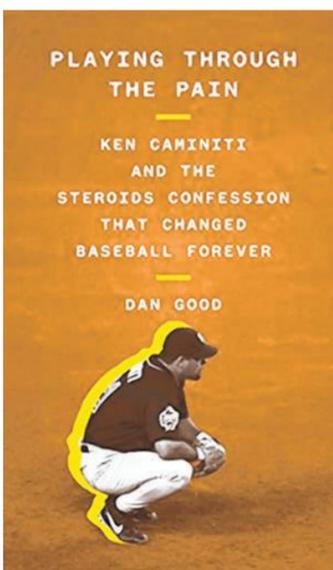
Strike one.

A short walk and a deep exhale and Caminiti was back for the second pitch, a ball outside. One and one.

He leaned his bat against his leg and adjusted his batting gloves, barely stepping out of the batter's box — why expel any extra energy? The next pitch was another ball. Two and one.

Ken wiped his nose, spit, and dug in. This was going to be the pitch.

Wilson threw over the plate, and Caminiti pounced — a laser beam. The ball climbed over the infield and kept carrying, settling into the left-center stands. Caminiti, half an hour after being strapped to an IV, had just hit a home run. He took a slow trot around the base paths. He wasn't showing up Wilson — he simply couldn't run any faster due to his weakened state. He stopped running before reaching home plate and walked across, taking the thirty-odd paces from home plate to the dugout



"Playing Through the Pain: Ken Caminiti and the Steroids Confession That Changed Baseball Forever" is available starting today.

with his hand on his left hip.

There, Bochy and his Padres teammates smiled and laughed. Some IV fluid and a Snickers bar, and Ken went from death personified to hitting a home run.

He came up again in the bottom of the third with two runners on. Wilson delivered a fastball on the outside corner for strike one.

The second pitch was a ball outside.

The sweat dripped off Wilson's nose. Caminiti had been battling sickness and dehydration, but now Wilson's stomach was in knots.

Wilson threw the ball down and in, and this time Ken smashed it to right-center ... get up, get up, get up, and it was gone, to give the Padres a 4-0 lead.

As Ken rounded third, he stuck out his tongue at coach Tim Flannery, their usual routine, but this time he wasn't playing — he was gassed.

The crowd celebrated Ken's accomplishments with noisemakers and "the wave."

He came up once more in the fifth. During the at bat, broadcaster Gary Thorne discussed the IV solution Ken had received before the game.

"Is that legal?" fellow broadcaster Ralph Kiner asked.

"It's medically appropriate," Thorne responded, laughing.

"Cause I'll start taking it if it's all

right," Kiner said.

"Just a little solution to fight off the dehydration. Lotta water. Probably some sugar."

Ken, wincing and squinting in the batter's box, worked the count to 3-and-2 before striking out. He swung and missed, and the momentum carried him three steps outside the batter's box — he had to pause to steady himself from falling over. Another long, cautious walk to the dug-out, and Caminiti's day was over, the legend forever forged.

He received another liter of IV fluid after playing and signed autographs for an hour.

"I don't know what happened," he said after the game. "Actually, I didn't think I touched the ball."

Ken's teammates, awed by his performance, started playfully requesting Caminiti's treatment, IVs and Snickers, themselves.

Ken's tear continued after the team returned home: He hit a grand slam the following day against Montreal's Pedro Martinez as part of a six-RBI output; then, two days after that, on August 21, he hit two more home runs to key a series sweep over the Expos. He'd already surpassed his career high for home runs in a season with more than a month left.

The Padres, starting with Ken's "Snickers game," won ten of eleven games to build a two-game lead over the second-place Dodgers. After Ken showed his teammates how far he would go to play — and playing through food poisoning was a step beyond the shoulder or hamstring pulls or abdominal issues — it forced them to dig deeper, too.

Ken would have fought to play that Snickers game regardless of the importance — he was pulling similar exploits playing winter ball in Puerto Rico under manager Tom Gamboa — but the playoffs being so close gave him extra motivation. The Dodgers entered that fateful August day with a one-game lead over the Padres.

But there was more than a month left in the season, and seven games left between the two teams. Ken was certainly motivated to overtake Los Angeles, given that he'd played 1,200 major league games without reaching the playoffs, and this was his best chance to get there.

There was always something deeper with Ken, a desire to keep playing no matter how much pain he faced, affirming his belief that *life's all about competition*. That drive inspired the sweetest performance of his career.

PADRES

FROM D1

runner in scoring position taken away on a reality-defying call that Manny Machado had impeded Molina, the Cardinals catcher.

With one out and Jose Azocar on first base after a single, Machado swung through a third strike as Azocar ran to second base. Home plate umpire Lance Barksdale ruled Machado foul-tipped the ball and that his backswing knocked the ball from Molina's glove. Barksdale called Machado out and sent Azocar back to first base.

"He said (Machado) foul-tipped it and came all the way around and knocked it out of his glove," Melvin said. "The timing of that is literally impossible."

Machado, who had ducked to let Molina attempt a throw, stood up and immediately pointed to Molina, who was picking up a ball he had dropped well before Machado's bat could have hit the glove.

"You're talking about Yadier Molina, the best catcher in the game, so I'm going to give him chance to maybe throw him out," Machado said. "And when I turned around, I saw the ball on the ground and I was like, 'All right. That's a foul ball.' I did tip it and he didn't catch it. And then the interference call came ... that just caught everybody by surprise."

After a conference with the rest of the umpiring crew, Barksdale changed the call and said there was no foul tip but that Machado had committed interference. That brought Melvin out of the dugout for an explanation, which clearly did not satisfy him. He and Machado departed after a couple minutes, however, with no one being ejected.

Hosmer's pop fly ended the inning.

Melvin and Machado acknowledged the play did not end up mattering due to the

big blow dealt by Goldschmidt. But then, they said, maybe it did.

"That situation, it changed the game," Machado said. "I might have struck out on the next pitch. I might have homered. Then we're bringing in our setup man."

Instead, Wilson began the seventh in relief of Martinez and allowed three runs.

The Cardinals' first two runs came in the bottom of the third inning after Tommy Edman hit a two-out grounder up the middle that Jake Cronenworth fielded on the edge of the dirt on the right side of second base and threw to first in plenty of time — but up the line. The play was not routine, in that Cronenworth had started on the grass in a shift. But it is also the kind of play Cronenworth has executed successfully so many times he makes it seem routine.

"I feel like I should make every play," Cronenworth said.

"He went a long ways to do it," Melvin said. "I know he made a great play and got a lot on the throw. ... He's really good at it. It's not an easy play."

Gorman took advantage of the opportunity, ripping a 2-2 change-up in the heart of the zone a projected 403 feet to the seats above the Cardinals' bullpen beyond right field. The Padres scored their second run in the fifth and a walk by Azocar and singles by Profar and Machado created the final run in the ninth. It was the only earned run Ryan Helsley, the Cardinals' fifth pitcher of the day, has allowed in 17 2/3 innings this season.

"We made them work again in the ninth inning," Melvin said. "We made their guy throw some pitches. A couple of their key guys had to throw quite a bit today. So you do the best you can to try to nick them up toward the end."

kevin.acee@suniontribune.com