50 YEARS OF PADRES BASEBALL
A TALE BY THE SWINGIN' FRIAR

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Contents

A Note from the Swingin’ Friar ............ 4
The Padres’ Padre ...................................... 7
The Padres in the Majors ..................... 8
Greatest Moments ................................. 10
Padres Greats ........................................... 12
The Bell-Ringer ........................................ 14
The Mission Bell ...................................... 16
Ringing the Bell ..................................... 18
Timeline .................................................. 20
Word Search ............................................. 22
Glossary ................................................ 23
Social Media .......................................... 23
Index ...................................................... 24
Greetings Friar Faithful! This year—2019—marks the 50th Anniversary of your favorite team, the San Diego Padres! To celebrate 50 years of the Padres in San Diego, I will take you on a journey into the history of our beloved Major League franchise. We will start with my humble beginnings and go on to honor legendary Padres players like Tony Gwynn and Trevor Hoffman. I’ll tell you all about the team traditions, like the ringing of the Mission Bell that celebrates every home victory. Follow along as we explore the team that calls America’s Finest City home in America’s #1 Ballpark.
The Padres' Padre

The San Diego Padres were named after the friar who founded the first California mission, way back in the 1700s. Priests and other religious leaders have been known as “Fathers” for hundreds of years. Padre means “father” in Spanish. I’m part of a long line of Padres, dating all the way back to the 1400s. Back then, a fellow Padre of mine was Didacus “San Diego” de Alcalá. The first mission in California was named after him—and then, so was the city of San Diego! Years later, I came along, another friar from San Diego. My home isn’t a church or mission, though. I currently live in the Western Metal Supply Co. Building, which is located in left field at Petco Park, the home of the Padres!

The Padres baseball team started in 1936, as a minor league team that was part of the Pacific Coast League. But then, in 1969, the Padres became a part of Major League Baseball (MLB). And that’s when I joined the team as its mascot and became known as the Swingin’ Friar! As a huge baseball fan myself, I was thrilled!
The Padres in the Majors

The Padres’ Major League debut was on April 8, 1969. That day, in its first Major League game, the team beat Houston 2–1! This is one of my favorite memories from the past 50 years. It was so exciting to see the team make a successful debut!

In 1974, the founder of McDonald’s, Ray Kroc, bought the team to keep us here in San Diego. We have won the Western Division five times, and made it to the World Series twice (in 1984 and 1998). Then in 2004, Petco Park opened! The corner of the Western Metal Supply Co. Building was painted with a yellow stripe. This acts as the foul pole in left field.

Padres owner Ray Kroc threw out the first pitch at the 1978 All-Star Game. It was the first All-Star Game to be played in San Diego.
Greatest Moments

Since I’ve been with the Padres for such a long time, I’ve seen many exciting accomplishments over the years! These are some of my favorite moments.

The 1978 MLB All-Star Game
July 11, 1978 • San Diego Stadium
The 49th All-Star Game featured the Padres on a national stage. The National League roster included two Padres: pitcher Rollie Fingers and outfielder Dave Winfield. They received a huge ovation from the many Padres fans in attendance. In the end, the National League team defeated the American League team 7–3, and future Padres great, Steve Garvey, was named MVP.

The 1984 National League Championship
October 2–7, 1984 • San Diego and Chicago
This was the first National League Championship Series (NLCS) in team history. In a best-of-five-games series, the Padres lost the first two. (Oh no!) But they fought hard and climbed their way back to win the next three games on the way to their first World Series appearance!

Steve Garvey’s Incredible Home Run
October 6, 1984 • Jack Murphy Stadium
This was the most famous home run in Padres history! During the 1984 NLCS, Steve Garvey’s bat connected with a high fastball from Cubs closer Lee Smith, and he hit a two-run walk-off homer to the opposite field. Garvey rounded the bases with his right fist raised high in the air. The home crowd went wild—the Padres had won the game! And a few days later, the Padres won Game 5 to take the series.

1998 World Series
October 17–21, 1998 • San Diego, New York
The Padres defeated the Houston Astros and then the Atlanta Braves in the National League Division Series, leading up to the Padres’ second appearance in a World Series in franchise history. Though the Padres fell to the New York Yankees, Tony Gwynn batted .500, and Greg Vaughn hit two home runs.
Padres Greats

As the team’s mascot, I’ve gotten to meet (and high five!) the greatest Padres players of all time. Some of them worked so hard, they were inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

**Dave Winfield**

1973–1995 • RIGHT FIELDER

Drafted fourth in 1973, Dave Winfield played his first eight seasons with the Padres. He is a 12-time MLB All-Star (four as a Padre), 7-time Gold Glove Award winner, and 6-time Silver Slugger. He was inducted into both the San Diego Padres and National Baseball Halls of Fame.

**Jerry Coleman**

MANAGER/ANNOUNCER

Jerry Coleman was an MLB player (New York Yankees), World Series MVP, war veteran, Padres Manager (1980), and world-class announcer. He was inducted into the San Diego Padres Hall of Fame in 2001. In 2005, he was awarded the Ford C. Frick Award for announcing, by the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Coleman’s statue is located in Park at the Park at the East Village Gate entrance.

**Tony Gwynn**

1982–2001 • RIGHT FIELDER

Known as “Mr. Padre,” Tony Gwynn is one of the greatest hitters in MLB history. He was a 15-time MLB All-Star and earned five Gold Glove Awards. With eight batting titles, he was also awarded the Silver Slugger Award. He was inducted into both the Padres and National Baseball Halls of Fame. Gwynn’s statue is located on the top of the grass hill in Park at the Park.

**Trevor Hoffman**

1993–2010 • PITCHER

Trevor Hoffman pitched for 16 seasons with the Padres and became baseball’s all-time leader in saves, surpassed only by Mariano Rivera. He was a 6-time MLB All-Star with the Padres and was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2018. Hoffman’s statue is located on K Street just beyond the bullpen in left field near the Padres Hall of Fame.
The Bell-Ringer

The friars who founded the first missions in California—my fellow Padres—were originally from Spain. They weren’t baseball players, because baseball didn’t exist back then. But I think they would have loved the game, and the San Diego Padres! The friars were very serious bell ringers. The sound of a bell could bring a community together. The ringing of church bells became a tradition, passed on from generation to generation.

In 2004, Petco Park was built around the Western Metal Supply Co. Building. And the team knew that as a friar, I had bell-ringing in my blood! So they asked me to ring the Mission Bell. Back then, it was located in the first-base tower. I was so excited! I knew my bell-ringing skills would come in handy one day!
The Mission Bell

The famous Mission Bell is a big part of every Padres game. In 2014, it was moved to The Porch next to the Western Metal Supply Co. Building, right down the left-field line. When fans hear the sweet sound, they know that something special is happening in the ballpark! I’m in charge of keeping the bell working and in good shape. I check it every morning, and again before I go to sleep. Sometimes I even dream about ringing the bell! When the gates open, the sound of the bell can be heard welcoming fans to Petco Park.

Did You Know?
The Mission Bell weighs 700 pounds!
Ringing the Bell

I ring the bell to begin the pregame ceremonies. Many times, a celebrity is chosen to ring the bell, and I’m happy to share the honor. Then in the ninth inning, when the Padres are winning, I handle all of the bell-ringing honors. One loud ring for the first out. Two powerful rings for the second out. Then three resounding and glorious rings after the third out! I ring it again to celebrate the victory and yell, “PADRES WIN! PADRES WIN!”
The past 50 years have been incredible. As the Padres mascot, I am the keeper of the team’s history and traditions. I put together a timeline of some of the major events in Padres history. Wow, thank you Friar Faithful!

1936
Ted Williams—known as the “Greatest Hitter Who Ever Lived”—joins the Pacific Coast League Padres.

1969
The Padres become a Major League franchise and the Swingin’ Friar is named the mascot.

1974
Ray Kroc, the founder of McDonald’s, buys the team. The Padres stay in San Diego.

1976
Randy Jones wins the National League Cy Young Award.

1978
Rollie Fingers and Dave Winfield represent the Padres in the 1978 All-Star Game.

1984
The Padres play in their first World Series, against the Detroit Tigers.

1998
The Padres play in their second World Series, against the New York Yankees.

2004
Petco Park is built around the famous Western Metal Supply Co. Building.

2007
Tony Gwynn is inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

2014
The Mission Bell is moved next to the Western Metal Supply Co. Building, where more fans can easily view it during games.

2018
Trevor Hoffman is inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

2020

Word Search

C H E Z Y Z V H S T O P M S K
T T Y M L S H O R T X Y I Q F
P J X Q L D E R T P F H O H A
I Q S W I N G I N F R I A R R
T R G B K B A T A G W T H L G
C Z P F B V N E E M O O R Q P
H U G C A K H O M E R U N C X
E M I S S I O N B E L L T A S
R V J W E A M N V I D G F T A
G K D V B Y N J J A S F P C N
L Y S P A D R E S H E T Q H D
O R I U L C C A L M R O O E I
V M U K L I M J H Q I A T R E
E M E U Z Y E J T T E Y Y A G
D V S M Z Q I M O G S W Y I O

Glossary

Cy Young Award: an annual award presented to the best pitchers in Major League Baseball, with one representative each from the National League and American League; selected based on voting from members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

debut: a first appearance in a particular capacity or role

foul pole: the marker or point to determine if a ball is in play or out of play

friar: a priest or other religious figure

Gold Glove Award: an annual award selected by MLB managers and coaches, presented to MLB players who exhibited superior individual defensive fielding performances at their respective positions.

mission: a building or group of buildings used in colonialism during the Early Modern Period

MLB All-Star: a player who is selected by fans to represent their respective league (National or American) in an annual game to determine home field advantage for the World Series; also known as the "Midsummer Classic"

ovation: when a group of people show enthusiastic support by clapping their hands

World Series: the championship round to determine the best team in baseball, played between one National League and one American League team

Social Media

Find the San Diego Padres and the Swingin' Friar online!

@PADRES /PADRES

Compadres Kids: Sign up for the official loyalty program for kids 14 and younger. It’s free to join, and kids earn exclusive prizes for each game attended (up to 20). Register at padres.com/compadres
Index

American League 10, 23
Atlanta Braves 11
California 7, 14
Chicago Cubs 11
Coleman, Jerry 12
de Alcalá, Didacus “San Diego” 7
Detroit Tigers 21
Fingers, Rollie 10, 20
Garvey, Steve 10, 11
Gold Glove Awards 13
Gwynn, Tony 4, 11, 13, 21
Hoffman, Trevor 4, 13, 21
home runs 11
Houston Astros 8, 11
Jones, Randy 20
Kroc, Ray 9, 20
Major League Baseball (MLB) 4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 20, 23
Mission Bell 4, 15–17, 21
missions 7, 14
National Baseball Hall of Fame 12, 13, 21
National League 10, 11, 20, 23
Championship 10
Championship Series 10, 11
New York Yankees 11, 12, 21
Pacific Coast League 7, 20
Petco Park 4, 7, 9, 15–17, 21
San Diego Padres Hall of Fame 12, 13
Spain (Spanish) 7, 14
Swingin’ Friar 6, 7, 12, 14–20, 23
The Porch 16
Vaughn, Greg 11
Western Metal Supply Co. Building 7, 9, 15, 16, 21
Williams, Ted 20
Winfield, Dave 10, 12, 20
World Series 9–12, 21, 23