

# Hamels shuts out Padres, Phils complete sweep

By Bernie Wilson  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SAN DIEGO -- Cole Hamels shut down his hometown Padres on four singles in eight innings to win for the first time in nine starts, leading the Philadelphia Phillies to a 5-0 victory Sunday and a three-game sweep of bumbling NL West-leading San Diego. The Padres have lost four straight games for the first time this season and were swept for just the second time. The Padres, who led the majors

in fielding percentage (.989) coming in, committed a season-high four errors.

After being swept at home in four games by Houston, the wild card-leading Phillies had their usual success at Petco Park. They won their seventh straight game at the downtown ballpark, where they're 18-4 since it opened in 2004. The Phillies, who came in with a 1 1/2-game lead over San Francisco

in the wild card race, remained two games behind Atlanta in the NL East.

Mike Sweeney, starting in place of slumping Ryan Howard against left-hander Clayton Richard, hit a two-run homer, his first for the Phillies since being acquired from Seattle on Aug. 4. Jayson Werth added a solo shot.

Hamels (8-10) prevailed over Richard (12-6) in a duel of lefties to win for the first time since July 11 against Cincinnati. He had gone 0-3 despite a 2.83 ERA in his previous eight starts. Hamels retired his final 16 batters after allowing Adrian

Gonzalez's single with two outs in the third. He struck out six and walked none. Ryan Madson finished the combined five-hitter as several thousand Phillies fans stood and cheered.

Gonzalez had three hits for San Diego.

Two of Philadelphia's runs were unearned. Carlos Ruiz singled with one out in the third and advanced on Richard's errant pickoff throw. He took third on Hamels' groundout and scored on Jimmy Rollins' single.

In the eighth, Ruiz hit a leadoff single and was safe at second on Richard's throwing error after he

fielded Hamels' bunt.

Right fielder Ryan Ludwick made a nice diving catch of Rollins' fly. But when Ludwick attempted to double Hamels off first, his throw was wide and bounced into the Padres' dugout for another error, allowing Ruiz to score.

In between, Sweeney lined a pitch over the left-field wall with two outs in the seventh.

Werth hit a solo homer off Luis Perdomo with one out in the ninth, his 18th.

Richard allowed four runs, two earned, on four hits in 7 2-3 innings.

## Fera

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offseason went on, saying he hopes to be able to hit from the 50-yard range.

"The weight room was beneficial," Wagner said. "I've been kicking a lot over the summer and the biggest thing is getting the muscle memory and the repetition."

In the past, the Nittany Lions have struggled on special teams. Last season's biggest breakdown swung the Iowa game, when

Hawkeye defensive end Adrian Clayborn returned a blocked punt for a touchdown.

This season, however, Wagner said he expects the special teams unit to serve as one of Penn State's fortes.

Late last season, after poor special teams proved costly in both losses, Paterno questioned his decision to redshirt some of his freshmen who may have made contributions on special teams.

Mix those athletes with the speed Penn State has in its return game, and the unit could see sig-

nificant improvements.

Junior cornerback Chaz Powell is first on the list of kick returners, followed by wideout Devon Smith and running back Stephon Green. As expected, sophomore wide receiver Justin Brown will return punts, with safety Drew Astorino and Smith listed behind him.

"We've got a lot of good athletes on the special teams," Wagner said.

"So I feel like that can really be one of the team's strengths."

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## Spikes

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Zach Russell earned his second win of the year, going seven strong innings while giving up only two runs, one of which earned. Russell, a 6-foot-2 right-hander, struck out six Spikes hitters in the outing.

For comparison, no Spikes pitcher has gone seven innings in a start all season.

Zack Dodson had a solid outing from the bump for State College, but was tagged with his fifth loss of the season. The lefty allowed just one run on five hits in four innings of work.

One third of Batavia's 12 hits Sunday night came off one of the newest Spikes, relief pitcher Joely Rodriguez, who relieved Dodson to start the fifth stanza. Rodriguez, along with fellow bullpen pitcher Vincent Payne, was promoted from the Gulf Coast League Pittsburgh Pirates just before Sunday night's game.

"[Rodriguez] just went out there and he just kept pounding the zone and they just kept getting hits," said first baseman Matt Curry, who went 2-for-4. "But that's just all you can do is throw your stuff over the plate and see what happens."

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Matt Curry  
Spikes first baseman

With just seven games remaining in the season, State College looks to snap their three-game losing streak at 7:05 tonight at Batavia.

"We've got two more games [in Batavia] and we just need to come out with the same aggression, meet their intensity," Santos said, "and hopefully come out with a win [tonight]."

Notes: Spikes manager Gary Robinson appeared on ESPN's SportsCenter on Saturday following an ejection to remember in the sixth inning of Friday night's Spikes-Muckdogs game at Medlar Field at Lubrano Park.

Robinson's tirade ended with the manager taking first base, autographing it and handing it to a fan along the first baseline.

The video has also found its way to YouTube.

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## Upset

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the game in the final part of the contest came with just over eight minutes remaining, when Hayley Brock served up a cross to Hayes in front of the net. The ball ended up sailing over the reach of Brock, who crashed to the ground on her back and needed to be assisted off the field.

Walsh said she didn't have a chance to talk to Hayes. The freshman forward had her back wrapped after the game, but appeared to be showing no ill effects.

Despite seemingly escaping a possible injury, the Lions still came away from the weekend

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Lexi Marton  
sophomore defender

without a win after tying Virginia, 1-1, in a hard fought game Friday and losing a tough matchup Sunday.

"Friday night was definitely our better performance," defender Lexi Marton said.

"We came in fired up and had tons of energy. There was way more movement and communication. [Sunday] it seemed like it was lacking."

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Daniel Bott/Collegian

Sophomore wide receiver Justin Brown poses for photos at Penn State football media day.

## Volleyball

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victory against UNC and success in the tournament.

The 6-foot-5 middle hitter had a career-best 19 kills against Campbell and was named the Carolina Classic MVP.

Fellow senior Alyssa D'Errico led Penn State in digs each match and registered a career-high six

service aces against Campbell en route to being named to the all-tournament team.

"She passed well, played good defense and had a good stretch of serving against Campbell," Rose said of D'Errico. "She's exerting a lot of energy trying to be the person who's keeping an eye on everybody else and trying to keep people focused and headed in the right direction."

Freshman Deja McClendon —

who was also a member of the all-tournament team — showcased her potential for the Rose and the Lions' fans.

The 6-foot-1 outside hitter was second to Brown in kills against UNC and Campbell, while her 13 kills against Villanova led the Lions.

Carpenter believes the freshman's performance was a sign of things to come.

"It's a pleasure playing with

her," Carpenter said. "She's a phenomenal athlete. I expect really great things out of her."

Though the Lions had a perfect start to the season in terms of wins, the players are aware they can't be satisfied with the opening weekend of play.

Brown said the opening three matches went well but were just the beginning of a long process of improvement.

"That's what this team is going

to have to be about, just progressing over time and trying every day to get better," Brown said.

"I think we improved on every game that we played, which is what you want to do."

"We started a little shaky but by the end of the tournament in our last game, I felt like we were connecting well and had some good rhythm going."

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