SAN DIEGO UNION POST

MAY 23, 2033 · THE SAN DIEGO SEALS BEAT

Seals' Charles fans league-high 105; Mendiola hits .222

BY **TRINA BOSANKO** · SAN DIEGO UNION POST

Four draft picks and $84 million. Tony Mendiola is hitting .222.

He has four home runs, 13 runs batted in and a .305 on-base percentage in 47 games. The extension Alex gave him in February has not started yet. It runs through 2038.

San Diego is 20-28, seventh in the Ruby, nine games behind Myrtle Beach and four short of the last playoff spot in the Fire Conference. On May 8 the Seals were 12-24 after being swept at home by Phoenix. They have gone 8-4 since. That is a decent two weeks. It does not undo the six before it.

In March Alex told me what this team was.

> *"This team is expecting to be in the playoffs and competing for the Ruby Division," he said.*

The Seals are 12-24 against the Ruby.

Now the part that works. Al Charles has 105 strikeouts in 73 and two-thirds innings, the most in baseball. He has a 1.83 earned run average and has walked 19. He is 5-5. He is 26 and in the last year before free agency, at $10.4 million.

Trey Wood has 16 home runs and 40 runs batted in, second in baseball in both. He is hitting .320. He is also a free agent in the fall. Tyler Elgie, 26, is hitting .351. So the two best players on this club, the strikeout pitcher and the slugger, are both in their last year. In March I said somebody should start working on that. I am still saying it.

The rest of the rotation has not come close to him. Gordie Wheeler has a 6.62. Justin Curry has a 6.66 in 10 starts. Juan Ramirez, 36, has a 3.35 and is the second-best starter on the club. The bullpen is 25th in the league.

Craig Noftall, the 34-year-old moved to second base to make room for Mendiola, is hitting .223 with one home run. Carlos Ayala, the third overall pick in 2026, has played 47 games and is hitting .209. Craig Turcios, paid $12 million, is at .114 in 10 games. Jack Withers, paid $28.4 million this year, is at .262 after almost four weeks on the injured list in March.

Jessie Hughes, third on the game's Top 100, is 2-3 with a 5.00 at Triple-A Medina. Medina is 7-29.

Memphis is here for two. Then four in Huron, then Kansas City. Alex said playoffs. It is May 23. He has four months and two players to decide about.