

= Mat Latos =

Mathew Adam Latos (/ ˈleɪtoʊz / LAY @-@ tohs ; born December 9 , 1987) is an American professional baseball pitcher who is in the Washington Nationals organization . He has played in Major League Baseball (MLB) for the San Diego Padres from 2009 through 2011 , the Cincinnati Reds from 2012 through 2014 , and the Miami Marlins , Los Angeles Dodgers and Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim in 2015 and Chicago White Sox in 2016 .

Born in Alexandria , Virginia , Latos ' family moved to Florida when he was young . He played baseball at Coconut Creek High School , where he became one of the best high school players in the state . Highly regarded for his talent before the 2006 MLB draft , he fell to the 11th round due to questions about his maturity . After pitching at Broward College for a season , the San Diego Padres signed him for a \$ 1 @. @ 25 million bonus . He debuted for the Padres in 2009 , and established himself in their starting rotation . The Reds traded four players , including three prospects , to acquire Latos before the 2012 season . The Marlins traded for Latos before the 2015 season and then traded him to the Dodgers in July 2015 .

= = Early life = =

Latos is the only child born to Lisa and Rich Latos . He is originally from Alexandria , Virginia . When Latos was 12 years old , his grandfather insisted that he play in a baseball tournament rather than stay at his bedside the day he died .

= = High school and college = =

Latos attended Coconut Creek High School in Coconut Creek , Florida , despite being recruited to attend high schools with more prestigious baseball programs . He was named the ace starting pitcher of the Coconut Creek baseball team 's as a freshman . That year , he pitched to a 3 ? 4 win ? loss record and a 3 @. @ 68 earned run average (ERA) , with 41 strikeouts and 26 walks in 39 2 ? 3 innings pitched . His fastball reached 88 to 89 miles per hour (142 ? 143 km / h) . He improved his fastball command and velocity as a sophomore , reaching 93 miles per hour (150 km / h) and his statistics improved to a 5 ? 2 record , a 1 @. @ 23 ERA , 89 strikeouts , and 21 walks in 68 innings .

Heading into his junior year , Latos improved his training regimen and diet . He pitched to a 7 ? 4 record with a 0 @. @ 76 ERA as a junior with 128 strikeouts and 17 walks in 83 innings . Eleven of his thirteen starts were complete games . Coconut Creek reached the regional quarterfinals , and Latos was named an Aflac All @-@ American and All @-@ Broward County by the South Florida Sun @-@ Sentinel and Miami Herald . By his senior year , Latos could throw his fastball as high as 98 miles per hour (158 km / h) . He was an honorable mention by the Florida Sports Writers Association for the All @-@ State team . As a senior , Latos had a 7 ? 3 record with 110 strikeouts and a 0 @. @ 64 ERA in 69 2 ? 3 innings pitched . He appeared in the Broward County Athletics Association All @-@ Star Game , and was named South Florida Sun @-@ Sentinel 's player of the year .

Latos committed to attend the University of Oklahoma to play college baseball for the Oklahoma Sooners baseball team . However , many scouts expected Latos to be a first @-@ round pick in the 2006 Major League Baseball (MLB) Draft . SchoolSports.com ranked Latos the fifth best high school pitcher available in the 2006 Major League Baseball draft . The San Diego Padres selected Latos in the 11th round (333rd overall) . He fell in the draft since his personality made him difficult to handle in high school , as he was considered immature , and often yelled at teammates who made errors and reacted poorly when the umpire made a call he disagreed with .

After the draft , Latos demanded a \$ 3 million signing bonus from the Padres . When the Padres did not meet his demands , Latos enrolled at Broward College , a junior college , to pitch for their baseball team . As the Padres retained the right to sign Latos until the start of the 2007 MLB draft , the Padres sent scout Joe Bochy to observe every start Latos made . Latos had a 10 ? 3 win ? loss

record and a 2 @. @ 03 ERA . Feeling that Latos was worth the gamble , the Padres paid Latos \$ 1 @. @ 25 million a few days before he would have re @-@ entered the draft in 2007 .

= = Professional career = =

= = = Minor leagues = = =

Latos started his professional career in minor league baseball with the Eugene Emeralds , the Padres ' Class A @-@ Short Season affiliate in the Northwest League , in 2007 . Pitching in 16 games for Eugene , Latos had a 1 ? 4 record and a 3 @. @ 83 ERA . In 2008 , Latos started the season with the Fort Wayne Wizards of the Class A Midwest League , but missed playing time during the season due to abdominal and shoulder injuries .

The Padres invited Latos to spring training in 2009 , but he suffered a minor ankle sprain that limited his appearances . Latos started the 2009 season in Fort Wayne , and allowed only one run in four starts . He was then promoted to the San Antonio Missions of the Class AA Texas League . At San Antonio , Latos had a 5 ? 1 win ? loss record , and threw five perfect innings in his last start for San Antonio on July 9 . Between Fort Wayne and San Antonio , Latos had an 8 ? 1 record , a 1 @. @ 38 ERA , 73 strikeouts , and a .168 batting average against (BAA) . The Padres named Latos their Padres Minor League Pitcher of the Month for May . Latos was selected to play in the 2009 All @-@ Star Futures Game , and threw one scoreless inning .

= = = San Diego Padres = = =

The Padres promoted Latos to make his major league debut on July 19 , 2009 , against the Colorado Rockies . In his major league debut , Latos pitched four innings , allowing three hits and two runs while striking out four , while throwing 75 pitches . He recorded his first major league win on July 24 . Latos became the first pitcher in Padres history to win four of his first five career starts . Latos made ten starts for the Padres in 2009 , pitching to a 4 ? 5 record and a 4 @. @ 68 ERA . Latos irritated his veteran teammates with his " know @-@ it @-@ all " and abrasive personality .

Latos changed his attitude by the 2010 season , and became willing to take advice from his teammates . On May 13 , 2010 , Latos threw a complete game shutout against the division foe San Francisco Giants . The only hit he allowed was an infield single . The Padres won the game 1 ? 0 . After posting a 5 @. @ 47 ERA through May 1 , Latos lowered his ERA down to 2 @. @ 45 right before the All Star Break , also leading the league in BAA and WHIP (.193 and 0 @. @ 97 respectively) . On September 7 , 2010 , Latos set a major league record with a seven ? inning , 10 ? strikeout performance in a win against the Dodgers . The victory was Latos ' 15th consecutive start logging at least five innings and allowing two or fewer earned runs , which was at the time the longest streak in modern baseball history (since 1900) according to the Elias Sports Bureau . The record would be broken by Félix Hernández , who recorded 17 such straight outings during the 2014 season . Previously the mark had been set by Greg Maddux (1993 ? 94) and Mike Scott (1986) , who had such streaks lasting 14 starts . On the season , Latos pitched to a 14 ? 10 win ? loss record in 31 games started , with a 2 @. @ 92 (ERA) , 1 @. @ 08 walks plus hits per inning pitched (WHIP) , and 189 strikeouts in 184 2 ? 3 innings pitched . He placed eighth in voting for the National League Cy Young Award .

However , Latos lost his last five starts of the 2010 season , culminating with a 3 ? 0 loss to the San Francisco Giants on October 3 that , combined with an Atlanta Braves win , eliminated the Padres from playoff contention . The San Diego Union @-@ Tribune attributed his struggles at the end of the year to fatigue , as his 189 2 ? 3 innings for the season were 66 2 ? 3 more than he pitched in 2009 .

Latos started 2011 on the disabled list due to a spring training shoulder injury . He lost his first four starts of the season , extending his losing streak to nine consecutive starts dating back to 2010 . The streak tied the longest streak in Padres history , held by Andy Benes and Dennis Rasmussen .

Latos had a no @-@ decision in his next start after the bullpen blew a save opportunity , preventing him from earning a win . He lost another decision for a 10 @-@ game losing streak that was one less than the club record held by Gary Ross . Latos won on May 15 against the Colorado Rockies to end his losing streak . He ended the 2011 season with a 9 ? 14 record and a 3 @.@ 47 ERA .

= = = Cincinnati Reds = = =

After the 2011 season , the Cincinnati Reds were looking for another frontline starter to pair with Johnny Cueto in their starting rotation . On December 17 , 2011 , the Padres traded Latos to the Reds in exchange for prospects Yonder Alonso , Yasmani Grandal , and Brad Boxberger , along with veteran starting pitcher Edinson Vólquez .

In the last week of June 2012 , Latos pitched two complete games . He was named the National League Player of the Week for the week ending July 1 . Latos finished the 2012 season with a 14 ? 4 win ? loss record a 3 @.@ 48 ERA . The Reds reached the playoffs , and faced the San Francisco Giants in the 2012 National League Division Series (NLDS) . On October 11 , 2012 , Latos gave up a grand slam to Buster Posey in a 6 @-@ run top of the fifth inning in the elimination game of the NLDS . Latos took the loss in this game , as the Reds were eliminated .

The Reds signed Latos to a two @-@ year contract worth \$ 11 @.@ 5 million for the 2013 and 2014 seasons . Latos had a 21 @-@ game streak without a loss , extending from August 2012 to June 2013 . He finished the 2013 season with a 14 ? 7 win ? loss record and a 3 @.@ 16 ERA in 210 2 ? 3 innings pitched . Though he suffered an abdominal strain on June 30 , he continued to pitch without missing any starts . He revealed the injury after a poor outing against the Pittsburgh Pirates in September . The Reds reached the 2013 National League Wild Card Game , opposing Pittsburgh . Reds ' manager Dusty Baker wanted to start Latos for that game , but a bone spur in his elbow prevented him from being available . Baker chose Cueto as his starter . The Reds lost the game , ending their season .

Latos had surgery to remove bone chips from his elbow during the offseason . During spring training in 2014 , Latos tore cartilage in his left knee , which was repaired with surgery . His knee had not fully recovered in time for Opening Day of the 2014 season , which he started on the disabled list . He began a rehabilitation assignment with the Louisville Bats of the Class AAA International League on May 26 , and made his 2014 season debut with the Reds on June 14 . Latos said that he came back at " 80 ? 90 percent " effectiveness due to his desire to help his team , but experienced setbacks with his knee during the season . He averaged 90 @.@ 7 miles per hour (146 @.@ 0 km / h) on his fastball , down from 92 @.@ 5 miles per hour (148 @.@ 9 km / h) during the 2013 season . His last start came on September 7 , as he suffered a bone bruise on the elbow of his pitching arm . His 2014 season ended with a 5 ? 5 record and a 3 @.@ 25 ERA in 16 starts .

= = = Miami Marlins = = =

With the goal of reducing their payroll , and with Latos eligible for free agency after the 2015 season , the Reds traded Latos to the Miami Marlins in exchange for Anthony DeSclafani and Chad Wallach during the 2014 Winter Meetings . Latos sought a \$ 10 @.@ 4 million salary for the 2015 season in salary arbitration , but the arbiters sided with the Marlins , who proposed a salary of \$ 9 @.@ 4 million .

Latos had 90 cubic centimeters of fluid drained from his left knee during spring training . He allowed seven runs in 2 ? 3 of an inning in his first start for Miami , and struggled through knee pain through May . He went on the disabled list after his May 21 start to rest his knee , and returned in mid @-@ June . Latos missed a start in July after a foul ball struck him in his foot while he was sitting in the dugout .

= = = Los Angeles Dodgers and Angels = = =

On July 30 , 2015 , in a three @-@ team trade , the Los Angeles Dodgers acquired Latos , Michael Morse , Bronson Arroyo , Alex Wood , Jim Johnson , Luis Avilán , and José Peraza , while the Marlins acquired minor league pitchers Victor Araujo , Jake Brigham , and Kevin Guzman , while the Atlanta Braves received Héctor Olivera , Paco Rodriguez , minor league pitcher Zachary Bird , and a competitive balance draft pick for the 2016 MLB draft . He made five starts and one relief appearance for the Dodgers and was 0 ? 3 while allowing 19 runs in 24 1 ? 3 innings . He lost his starting job due to his poor performance and was designated for assignment on September 17 . The Dodgers released Latos on September 25 .

On September 28 , 2015 , Latos signed a contract with the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim that would allow him to pitch the last week of the season for them . Latos was not eligible to pitch for the Angels in the postseason . He made his first appearance for the Angels as a relief pitcher on September 29 .

= = = Chicago White Sox = = =

Latos signed a one @-@ year contract worth \$ 3 million with the Chicago White Sox prior to the 2016 season . Latos pitched to a 0 @.@ 74 ERA in his first four starts for the White Sox , but then struggled , allowing 29 earned runs in his next 36 innings pitched since April 30 . After acquiring James Shields , the White Sox designated Latos for assignment on June 9 .

= = Pitching style = =

Latos throws five pitches . He throws a four @-@ seam fastball (91 to 96 miles per hour (146 to 154 km / h)) , a two @-@ seam fastball (90 to 94 miles per hour (145 to 151 km / h)) , a slider (84 to 87 miles per hour (135 to 140 km / h)) , a curveball (78 to 82 miles per hour (126 to 132 km / h)) , and a changeup (82 to 85 miles per hour (132 to 137 km / h)) . He mostly relies on his four @-@ seamer and slider against right @-@ handed hitters while adding considerable variety against lefties . The 42 % whiff rate on his slider is one of the best among major league starters .

Latos is 6 feet 6 inches (1 @.@ 98 m) tall and uses an over @-@ the @-@ top delivery . Latos has one of the highest delivery points in baseball . Latos has compiled good strikeout totals in his career as a starter , finishing in the NL 's top 10 in strikeouts per 9 innings pitched rate twice .

= = Personal = =

Latos married in 2010 . He and his wife , Dallas , met through her then @-@ roommate and Mat 's friend , a minor league baseball player , who were dating . Mat and Dallas participated in the NOH8 Campaign in 2013 . The couple own a cat , named Cat Latos . They purchased a home in Indian Hill , Ohio , in 2013 . They had their first child , a son named Landon Marshall Latos , in August 2014 .

Latos honors his grandfather by writing his initials on the pitching mound and with a tattoo of his grandfather 's initials . He enjoys drawing , especially airbrushing , and stated a desire to work on tattoos . Latos has many tattoos , and was described by Tim Sullivan of the San Diego Union @-@ Tribune as " the righthanded tattoo canvas . "