

MLB

PIRATES @ CARDINALS 1:07 ET	RAVS @ RED SOX 3:07 ET	DODGERS @ BRAVES 6:07 ET
--------------------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------

DIVISION PLAYOFFS

MLB FULL SCOREBOARD



NEWSLETTER | FOX SPORTS | FS NETWORKS | SCOUT

username: pass: login Create account?

TV LISTINGS WATCH VIDEO READ NEWS LISTEN



MARTIN PRADO, PART OF A GIFTED BRAVES OUTFIELD, PLAYED SOME SHORTSTOP LAST WEEKEND VS. THE METS. (DANIEL SHIREY-USPRESSWIRE)

THE MOST INTERESTING UTILITY MAN IN THE WORLD

ANDY JOHNSTON | Published: Wednesday, July 18, 2012, 1:16pm

The tweets trickled in at first. Then slowly, they picked up speed as the game progressed.

Braves fans, enamored with Martin Prado's emergency move to shortstop, flooded Twitterverse with hyperbole about the Braves' versatile star.

"I heard Martin Prado delivered Brian McCann's baby earlier this afternoon."

"Prado will have cured cancer before this game ends."

The tweets continued to fill the Internet last Friday night as Prado, already one of the most beloved Braves, cemented his place in franchise lore when he took over at short after backup



TRENDING NOW

STORIES	PHOTOS	VIDEOS
---------	--------	--------

Jack Wilson broke his right pinkie.

Wilson was starting for rookie Andrelton Simmons, who was already on the DL with a broken right pinkie, leaving the Braves with no choice than to turn to Prado.

No shortstop? No sweat.

Prado didn't need to be prodded.

The man has more gloves than an Isotoner store.

Prado had already played left field, third base, second base and first base this season. He simply went from left to short — for the first time since 2008 — when Wilson injured his finger going for a grounder in the fourth inning.

His legend increased when he ranged behind second base and made a backhand flip to Dan Uggla for a force out.

"I try to do everything I can to make all my teammates and coaches and everybody confident and comfortable with the way I play everywhere," Prado said after Friday's game. "I'm going to do whatever I can — my best — anywhere I play."

Backup catcher David Ross even joked that he hoped Prado wouldn't take his job.

The next day, with the position still in flux, the stopgap shortstop was called upon again.

Prado started at his fifth position of the year and went 2-for-5 with an RBI as the Braves defeated the Mets for the second straight game.

His heroics prompted more excited tweets as Braves fans continued to laud his feats with their laptops and phones.

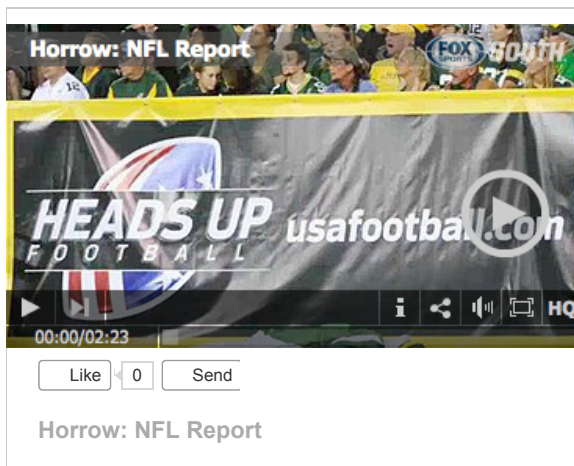
Prado already had a well-used hashtag — #MVPrado — but an account was quickly created.

Simply named @Prado_Facts, the account's boasts and retweets make Prado seem superhuman, lifting him to a level with Dos Equis' The Most Interesting Man in the World ("He once ran a marathon because it was on his way") and Chuck Norris ("Ghosts sit around the campfire and tell Chuck Norris stories").

A few samples:

"When Martin Prado goes to sleep, sheep count him."

"Martin Prado didn't stay at a Holiday Inn Express last night; Holiday Inn Express crashed on his couch."



College Football preview podcast: Week 6



Three Cuts: Kershaw, Dodgers overpower Braves in Game 1



Braves falter in four key areas, drop Game 1 to Dodgers



Falcons working overtime to prep backup LBs for Jets



Fantasy Fox: iPhone-friendly cheat sheet for Week 5

MORE »

TEAM CENTER

STORIES

PHOTOS

VIDEOS



Braves falter in four key areas, drop Game 1 to Dodgers

The Braves' Game 1 defeat to the Dodgers was the result of breakdowns in four crucial areas.



Three Cuts: Kershaw, Dodgers overpower Braves in Game 1

Clayton Kershaw settled in and stifled the Braves as the Dodgers took Game 1 of the NLDS.

"In a surprising change, both the Swiss Army Knife & the universal remote will be renamed 'The Martin Prado.'"

"Chuck Norris and Tim Tebow wear Martin Prado pajamas."

It had 1,146 followers by Wednesday afternoon, but most Braves fans didn't need Twitter to learn about Prado's exploits.

They've been enamored with his versatility and productivity since he arrived in Atlanta for good in 2008. And there are a ton of reasons why Prado recently won the Heart and Hustle award, which are given to players on every team by the Major League Baseball Alumni.

Even as Prado trended on Twitter over the weekend, trade rumors resurfaced.

Prado's name was mentioned over the winter, and the most recent one had him and a pitcher or two going to Arizona for outfielder Justin Upton, but it was merely speculation.

Prado is under contract through 2013 and the Braves hope to extend his contract and permanently move him to third when Chipper Jones retires at the end of the season.

That would be the best decision.

His versatility and willingness to play anywhere aside, Prado is one of the Braves' most consistent and potent bats. He's adjusted well to the outfield, but he's more consistent and confident — and sometimes even spectacular — on the infield.

Teammates consistently reminded anyone who would listen this offseason that Prado was better than the hitter who batted .260 in his injury filled 2011 season. They insisted he would bounce back, that he would revert to the form he displayed when he .320 in '08 or .307 in both '09 and '10.

He's done that.

Prado is hitting .317 — seventh in the NL — and has already set his career high with 11 stolen bases. He's sixth in the NL with 108 hits and leads the Braves with 34 multi-hit games.

Besides, the Braves would be making a mistake to trade a guy who is so popular with the fans and in his clubhouse and is the subject of this kind of Twitter praise:

"Prado is such a good hitter that he gets intentionally walked in batting practice."

Like 150 Tweet 3 0 Share 0

TAGS: Atlanta Braves Martin Prado Prado at shortstop @Prado_Facts

WRITER'S BLOCK



NLDS Roundtable: Do Braves stack up well vs. Dodgers?

With the NLDS opener on Thursday night, our team weighs in on five important questions for the Braves.

[MORE »](#)

FOXY FOTOS & TOP LISTS

PHOTOS	LISTS
	Fantasy: 10 Buy-Low Options Here are 10 struggling, but attractive fantasy assets to land
	Most Important Players in the MLB Playoffs FOX Sports South breaks down
	Breakdown: NL MVP Candidates Here are the detailed rankings,
	Sports' Social Media All-Stars Not all sports social media accounts are created equal.
	NFL's Most Dubious 2-0 Teams In History A countdown of the NFL's most

KEEP CLIMBING
DELTA

FLAT BEDS WITH WESTIN HEAVENLY® IN-FLIGHT BEDDING.

[LEARN MORE »](#)



ARCHIVE | EMAIL

Andy Johnston has written about pro and college sports for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The Associated Press, CNN.com and the Athens Banner-Herald.

FROM AROUND THE WEB

- **Snoop Dogg’s son, a four-star recruit, says Lane Kiffin’s USC firing was overdue** (Sports Illustrated)
- **Hot Pictures of Female Crossfitter Jackie Perez** (Rant Sports)
- **15 Female Athletes You’d Want to Get Caught With in a Dark Movie Theater** (Rant Sports)
- **Katherine Webb plays out every man’s fantasy in new Carl’s Jr. commercial** (Sports Illustrated)
- **11 Drinks that are Destroying Your Health** (Shape Magazine)
- **FanMug raises money for charity with unique cooler/desk caddy** (Examiner.com)

WE RECOMMEND

- **Tebow knocked out of SEC Greatest Player Tournament** (Fox Sports South)
- **Supermodel Kate Upton joins Upton brothers on SI cover** (Fox Sports South)
- **Dodgers vs. Braves: First look at playoff matchup** (Fox Sports West)
- **Ugla’s exclusion difficult decision for Gonzalez, Braves** (Fox Sports South)
- **After concussion, Finley’s son told him to quit football** (Fox Sports Wisconsin)
- **Baylor breaking out new look for West Virginia** (Fox Sports Southwest)

[Hide Comments](#) | [Add Comments](#)

Recommended by

Add your comments below

You need to log in to post comments.

Username: password:

[Create an account](#)



FOX Sports Arizona
 FOX Sports Carolinas
 FOX Sports Detroit
 FOX Sports Florida
 FOX Sports Kansas City
 FOX Sports Midwest
 FOX Sports North

FOX Sports Ohio
 FOX Sports San Diego
 FOX Sports South
 FOX Sports Southwest
 FOX Sports Tennessee
 FOX Sports West
 FOX Sports Wisconsin
 NESN Boston

Hawks
 Braves
 Falcons
 Dream
 ACC
 SEC
 C-USA
 FOX Sports South Girls

Contact Us
 Video
 Advertise With Us
 FOXSports.com
 Scout
 Yardbarker

Hawks
 Braves
 Falcons
 Alabama
 Auburn
 Georgia
 Georgia Tech
 Kentucky
 LSU

Powered by  OptaFormic

[MSN Privacy](#) [Legal](#) [Advertise](#) [RSS](#) [About our ads](#)

©2013 Microsoft