

The Flushing Ledger

NEW YORK METS · BEAT COVERAGE

SEPTEMBER 2030 · SEASON-ENDING FRONT OFFICE REPORT

NEW YORK, N.Y.

117–45: The Mets Finish the Regular Season Best in Baseball by 28 Games

Garrett Crochet wins the pitching Triple Crown, Tyler Uberstine finishes a perfect 13–0, and a 21–5 September carries New York into October as the National League’s top seed with a week of rest ahead.

BY MARISOL KWAN · FLUSHING LEDGER STAFF

The regular season is over, and it ended the way most of the summer did: with the Mets so far ahead of everybody that the standings table looks like a typo. New York finished **117–45 (.722)**, won the NL East by 32 games over Washington, and beat the next-best record in baseball (Boston, 89–73) by 28. They led the majors in runs scored (923) and in fewest runs allowed (560), a run differential of **+363**. The next-best team in baseball, Tampa Bay, was at +92. September itself was a 21–5 victory lap, capped by an 8–2 close over the final ten games.

Because they hold the NL’s top seed, the Mets skip the Wild Card round and open in the Division Series. The bye buys a few days to line up the rotation, though it will not bring back Nolan McLean, who has been on the injured list since Aug. 23 with roughly 23 days left on the stint — by the in-game clock, around Oct. 23.

“Garrett Crochet went 15–0 with a 1.44 ERA from June 1 on. He started the year 2–2 with a 4.67 ERA in April.”

The Triple Crown

The award notice landed as the regular season closed: **Garrett Crochet is the National League’s pitching Triple Crown winner**, leading the league in wins (19), strikeouts (259) and ERA (2.20). He finished 19–4 across 28 starts and 184½ innings, with a 0.91 WHIP and a 36.1% strikeout rate against a walk rate of 5.2%. His 6.5 wins above replacement are the best of any pitcher in baseball, and September was a fitting last note: 3–0, a 1.67 ERA, and **46 strikeouts against two walks** in 27 innings.

The Mets did not just have the league’s best pitcher; they owned the top two spots. Tarik Skubal finished 18–3 with a 2.61 ERA and 5.2 WAR, second in the NL in both wins and ERA, and the pair rank second and tied for fifth in the majors in FIP–, the stat that strips luck out of ERA. Josh Hader led the club with 28 saves and a 1.69 ERA, with Edwin Díaz (2.12 ERA, 36%

strikeout rate) in the same closer-by-committee arrangement as all year.

SEPTEMBER, BY THE LEDGER	
Record, Sep. 1–29	21–5
Final record	117–45 (.722)
Run differential	+363
NL East margin	32.0 games
Seed	NL No. 1, bye
Crochet	Triple Crown
Uberstine	13–0
Soto, season	.292/.386/.584, 38 HR

The lineup was every bit as deep. Juan Soto finished at .292/.386/.584 with 38 home runs and 115 RBI, and his 180 wRC+ was fourth in all of baseball. Spencer Torkelson matched him at 38 home runs and drove in 122, fourth in the majors. Thomas Joaquin hit 34 homers from the catcher’s spot and posted 6.3 WAR, seventh among all hitters. Evan Carter stole 60 bases and Jackson Holliday stole 49, second and third in the sport, and six Mets hitters cleared 25 home runs.

FROM THE METS FILES
On Sept. 12 — the same week Soto went deep in four straight games — he hit career home runs No. 400 and No. 401 in a single 7–1 win over Texas, with Crochet picking up the victory. Nobody on the club has spoken much about it since; they were too busy winning.

NL EAST STANDINGS — FINAL				
TEAM	W	L	PCT	GB
New York Mets	117	45	.722	—
Washington Nationals	85	77	.525	32.0
Atlanta Braves	80	82	.494	37.0
Miami Marlins	77	85	.475	40.0
Philadelphia Phillies	74	88	.457	43.0

Thirteen and Oh

Then there is Tyler Uberstine. The right-hander finished **13–0** over 32 appearances and 136⅓ innings with a 3.23 ERA, and by every record this league keeps, it is the **most wins by a pitcher who never lost a decision**. The previous high was Tom Zachary’s 12–0 for the 1929 Yankees. Three other pitchers have finished unbeaten with at least 10 wins: Dennis Lamp (11–0, 1985), Brady Basso (11–0, 2028) and a pair of 10–0 seasons from Howie Krist (1941) and Aaron Small (2005). That is five names, spread over a century, and Uberstine is now at the top of the list.

It is worth being precise about how he got there. Uberstine opened the year in the bullpen — six April appearances, no starts, no decisions — and moved into the rotation in May, then won five straight decisions in June alone. He finished with 19 starts and 13 appearances in relief. The Mets went 17–2 in the games he started and scored more than eight runs a game for him. His FIP of 3.70 says the record is better than the performance underneath it, which is true of nearly every unbeaten season in history and takes nothing away from a record that stands on the books.

UNBEATEN SEASONS, 10+ WINS		
PITCHER	YEAR	W–L
Tyler Uberstine	2030	13–0
Tom Zachary	1929	12–0
Dennis Lamp	1985	11–0
Brady Basso	2028	11–0
Howie Krist	1941	10–0
Aaron Small	2005	10–0
League season records, qualifying pitchers with 10+ wins and 0 losses.		

What October Looks Like

With McLean out, the Division Series rotation is Crochet and Skubal at the top and a choice behind them. On skill, the numbers favor Uberstine (FIP 3.70, xFIP 3.81) over Jackson Jobe, whose 14–5 record sits on a 4.81 xFIP and a 17% strikeout rate. The bullpen is the deepest in the league: all seven regular relievers with 39 or more innings finished with a FIP– of 78 or better. The new Sabermetrics view in the Mets Command Center has the full tables, including where each Mets hitter and pitcher ranks against all of MLB.

OPINION

Letting Yanase Go Looks Smarter Every Week

OPINION COLUMN · BY MARISOL KWAN · THE VIEWS HERE ARE THE COLUMNIST’S OWN

Back in June, a dispatch from the Diamond Wire called the return on Katsuo Yanase “unremarkable.” Three months and one Triple Crown later, that line has not aged well, and it is worth correcting the record before the postseason begins, because the real story is better than the one everyone has been telling.

Start with what actually happened. On Feb. 20, the Mets sent Yanase (then 32, coming off an 8–11, 4.66 ERA season) and prospect Armando Covarrubias to Texas for Evan Carter and Nikita Brandwijk. It was not a trade for Garrett Crochet. Crochet was a separate free-agent signing (four years, \$55 million, \$55 million, \$50 million, \$48 million) that the open rotation spot made room for. The two decisions were linked in logic rather than on paper: the Mets decided they would rather commit the money and the innings to a younger, better arm than ride the bounce-back bet on a declining one.

That bet paid off in both directions. Crochet opened 2030 at 2–2 with a 4.67 ERA in April, and some of us wondered, briefly. Then he went **15–0 with a 1.44 ERA from June 1 to the end of the year**, won the Triple Crown, and finished as baseball’s most valuable pitcher at 6.5 WAR. Yanase, for his

part, was pitching fine in Texas (6–9, 3.45 ERA over 109⅓ innings) before shoulder inflammation ended his season in June. The Mets did not move him because he was bad. They moved him a year before he was going to be.

And here is the part the June piece missed: the other half of the return is a core everyday player. **Evan Carter hit .274/.354/.454 with 20 home runs, 60 steals (second in the majors) and 4.6 WAR**, a 131 wRC+ in a lineup that did not need him to be a star but got one anyway. Add the two together and the Yanase trade produced a Triple Crown winner’s worth of rotation spot and an everyday outfielder, at a cost of one pitcher whose shoulder is now the problem of the Rangers’ medical staff.

The caveat is the one every honest column owes its readers: it is easy to look brilliant when the replacement goes 19–4. Had Crochet stayed mediocre past April, we would be writing a different column. But the decision was made when the evidence was an 8–11 season and a rising ERA, not when it was a trophy, and that is the standard that counts. Let the record show the Mets saw it first.