

The Flushing Ledger

NEW YORK METS · BEAT COVERAGE

SEASON-END REPORT · WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS · OCTOBER 2030NEW YORK, N.Y.

Champions: 117 Wins, 11 October Victories and the Last Out in the Bronx

The Mets beat the Yankees four games to one to finish the most dominant season in the league’s recorded history, with Thomas Joaquin named World Series MVP after taking the NLCS trophy a week earlier.

BY MARISOL KWAN · FLUSHING LEDGER STAFF

The last out of the 2030 season came on Oct. 28 at Yankee Stadium, in a game the Mets had no business winning on paper and every business winning on résumé. They trailed 5–2 after six innings of Game 5, scored four times in the seventh, took the lead for good with two more in the eighth, and held on, 8–7, when Josh Hader got the final outs. Edwin Díaz, who pitched 1½ innings and took the win, finished the postseason 3–0 with a 0.96 ERA. It is the first World Series title of the Tommy Judd era, after five straight trips to the playoffs, and it came at the end of a 117–45 regular season that no other team in league history has matched.

The Series itself was a one-sided affair that did not feel like it at the time. Tarik Skubal won Game 1, 6–1, with five innings and a one-run line, and Ryan Clifford and Spencer Torkelson homered. Game 2 was a 1–0 walk-off: Tommy Judd, Jr. struck out 10 in 5½ scoreless innings, the bullpen finished the job, and Walker Jenkins drove in the only run in the bottom of the ninth. In the Bronx, Garrett Crochet beat the Yankees 7–2 in Game 3, with 6½ innings and a three-RBI game from Clifford, who homered. The Yankees took Game 4, 4–2, behind 5½ innings of one-run ball from Cristian Mena, even though Joaquin went 3-for-4 with a homer. Then came Game 5. The Mets finished the Series with a .257 average, eight home runs and a 24–14 edge in runs, and held the Yankees to a .208 average and two home runs of their own.

“The most wins in this league’s history, and the first title to go with them.”

The wins record is worth a sentence of its own. The 1906 Cubs (116–36) and the 2001 Mariners (116–46) had held the mark for as long as the database has existed, and neither finished the job: the Cubs lost the World Series and the Mariners lost the ALCS. The Mets passed both with 117 and then added the trophy. They also scored the most runs in baseball (923) and allowed the fewest (560) for a +363 run differential, and Garrett Crochet won the pitching Triple Crown (19–4, 2.20 ERA, 259 strikeouts).

HOW THE METS WON IT — OCTOBER BY ROUND			
ROUND	OPPONENT	RESULT	RUNS SERIES MVP
Division Series	Dodgers	3–1	16–13 T. Snyder
NLCS	Diamondbacks	4–2	46–33 T. Joaquin
World Series	Yankees	4–1	24–14 T. Joaquin
Postseason total		11–4	86–60
First-round bye as the NL’s top seed. Team line in October: .277 average, 25 home runs, 25 steals, 3.95 ERA, 150 strikeouts in 132 innings.			

Joaquin is the headline. The catcher, 28, hit .268 with 34 homers and 6.3 WAR in the regular season, then went .355/.369/.629 with four homers and 10 RBI in the playoffs, and was named series MVP in both the NLCS and the World Series. In the Series he went 7-for-20 with a homer and three RBI. His teammates were just as busy: Clifford hit .289/.414/.733 with six homers and 14 RBI in 15 games, three of them in the Series, while Trey Snyder (the Division Series MVP) hit .321 with four homers and six steals, and Jackson Holliday had six doubles and five steals.

OCTOBER LEADERS (15 GAMES)				
BATTER	AVG	HR	RBI	SB
Joaquin	.355	4	10	0
Clifford	.289	6	14	0
Snyder	.321	4	12	6
Holliday	.295	2	9	5
Bradfield Jr.	.273	0	8	7
PITCHER	W-L	ERA	IP	K
Crochet	3-0	2.45	22.0	30
Skubal	2-0	0.75	12.0	14
Judd, Jr.	2-0	2.12	17.0	19
Díaz	3-0, 1 SV	0.96	9.1	14
Hader	0-1, 4 SV	4.26	6.1	12

The October staff was rarely tidy and often brilliant. The three-man core of Crochet, Skubal and Judd, Jr. went 7-0 with 63 strikeouts in 51 innings and a 1.94 ERA combined. Crochet struck out 30 in 22 innings across four starts. The back of the rotation was another story: Tyler Uberstine, unbeaten at 13-0 in the regular season, took his first loss of the year in October and gave up 11 earned runs in 8 innings (12.38 ERA), and Jackson Humphries allowed seven in nine. The bullpen was erratic, with Alex Vesia (5.19) taking both of his losses, though Ovis Joaquin (1.80) and Díaz were rarely hit.

The Yankees did not go quietly. Pete Alonso and Deyvison De Los Santos each homered and drove in three runs in Game 5, and Jazz Chisholm Jr. went 3-for-3 in Game 4. New York’s postseason ERA was 3.21 to the Mets’ 3.95, but the Mets’ bats made the difference. On Oct. 30, the day the offseason opened, the Yankees announced they had fired manager Aaron Boone.

THE OFFSEASON OPENS (AS OF OCT. 30)	
Edwin Díaz (36)	Executed player option for 2031 (\$21.2M)
Thomas Joaquin (28)	Team option exercised (\$21.2M; buyout was \$6.5M)
Arbitration (7)	Jobe, Uberstine, Nikhazy, O. Joaquin, Y. Rodriguez, Bradfield, Jenkins
Budget	\$426M expenses; payroll about \$440M
Deadlines	Hearings Nov. 20; ticket price by Dec. 12
Players eligible for arbitration were offered the game’s estimates by default; Cohen’s budget memo gave a total of \$426 million.	

What comes next is the business of staying on top. The owner set a \$426 million expense budget (about \$440 million in payroll), the arbitration offers go out before the Nov. 20 hearings, and the Winter Meetings close on Dec. 12. Four affiliates, Binghamton, Brooklyn, St. Lucie and the FCL club, reported personnel departures on Oct. 30, so the coaching staffs below the big-league level will be one of the first items on the offseason list.

FROM THE METS FILES
Tommy Judd, Jr. worked five scoreless innings with six strikeouts in a start on Aug. 13. Ten weeks later he started Game 2 of the World Series, struck out 10 over 5½ scoreless innings, and watched the bullpen and Jenkins finish a 1-0 win. Over three October starts he went 2-0 with a 2.12 ERA and 19 strikeouts in 17 innings.

It is the Mets’ first championship in this save and, by the numbers, a complete one: the best record, the best offense, the best run prevention, a Triple Crown pitcher and two series MVPs from the same catcher. The Mets’ five-year playoff streak now has a trophy at the end of it. The long list of decisions starts now, and the farm, the coaching staffs and a few aging contracts will all be on it.