

The Flushing Ledger

NEW YORK METS · BEAT COVERAGE

NLCS PREVIEW · OCTOBER 2030

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Arizona Is the Only Team That Beat the Mets in a Series. The NLCS Gives It Seven More Tries.

New York needed just four games to beat the Dodgers, with Trey Snyder named series MVP. The Diamondbacks are next, and they took five of six from the Mets in April and May.

BY MARISOL KWAN · FLUSHING LEDGER STAFF

The Division Series did not go the distance. The Mets beat the Los Angeles Dodgers three games to one, closing it out with a 3–1 win on Oct. 10 at Dodger Stadium behind six innings of one-run, seven-strikeout work from Tommy Judd, Jr., with Edwin Díaz getting the save. Next up is Arizona (88–74), which won the NL West and beat Cincinnati three games to one. The best-of-seven NLCS opens in Flushing on Oct. 14 and 15, moves to Arizona on Oct. 17, 18 and 19, and returns to New York on Oct. 21 and 22 if it goes seven.

Third baseman Trey Snyder was the series MVP, hitting .545 with a .600 on-base percentage, two home runs, four RBI, three runs scored and four stolen bases. The Mets won Game 1, 5–4, with eight strikeouts from Garrett Crochet and a Josh Hader save, took Game 2, 5–2, behind five scoreless innings from Tarik Skubal, and lost Game 3, 6–3, in Los Angeles before the clincher. As a team they hit .244 with eight home runs and 11 steals in the four games.

“Five losses in six games against Arizona. It is the only series of more than three games the Mets lost all year.”

Now for the uncomfortable part. The Mets lost three straight in Phoenix on April 8–10 (6–5, 2–1 and 5–2), then lost two of three at home on April 30 to May 2, including a 14–7 game. Their one win in the six was 6–1 on May 1. The Mets hit .216 in the series and were outscored 30–22. Evan Carter was the exception, going 9-for-19 with two homers, while Spencer Torkelson (4-for-22) and Ryan Clifford (2-for-18) went a combined 6-for-40. As with the Dodgers, the caveat is the calendar: those games are five to six months old, and Braxton Ashcraft, Wyatt Langford and Hiroshi Ishida, who all played in them, are no longer Mets.

SEASON SERIES — DIAMONDBACKS 5, METS 1

DATE	SITE	RESULT	METS SP	D-BACKS SP
Apr 8	at ARI	L 5–6	Ashcraft	Perez
Apr 9	at ARI	L 1–2	Crochet	Burnes
Apr 10	at ARI	L 2–5	Jobe	Burns
Apr 30	NY	L 7–14	Jobe	Crawford
May 1	NY	W 6–1	Ashcraft	Nelson
May 2	NY	L 1–2	Crochet	Perez

Mets: 22 R, 4 HR, .216. Arizona: 30 R. Four of the five losses were by three runs or fewer.

Arizona is built differently from the Dodgers: more speed than power, no ace, and a bullpen that is good but leaky. The Diamondbacks scored 766 runs (the Mets scored 923), hit 165 home runs, stole 164 bases and posted a 4.01 team ERA, seventh in the majors, though they blew 31 saves. The offense runs through Corbin Carroll (.279/.358/.484, 22 HR, 37 SB), second baseman Jordan Lawlar (25 HR, 39 SB, 5.7 WAR), Ketel Marte (30 HR, 105 RBI) and catcher Gabriel Moreno (98 RBI). Shortstop Franklin Arias, a 3.5-WAR regular, is listed as injured with about 16 days left.

EXPECTED DIAMONDBACKS STARTERS (GAME PROJECTION)

GM	STARTER	W–L	ERA	K	HR ALLOWED
1, 5	Burnes (R)	9–11	4.68	135	14 of 21 to LHB
2, 6	Kent (R)	7–3	2.79	135	0 of 4 to LHB
3, 7	Nelson (R)	8–9	4.74	119	17 of 28 to LHB
4	Perez (L)	10–6	3.84	111	10 of 14 to RHB

That is the same four-man group Arizona used against Cincinnati: Corbin Burnes, swingman Zak Kent, Ryne Nelson and the left-hander Adonys Perez. Kent, at 2.79 with a team-best 4.4 WAR, beat the Reds with seven innings of one-run ball in Game 2, and Perez threw six scoreless in Game 4, while Burnes and Nelson both got hit. For a Mets lineup that leans left, the home-run splits are the story. Burnes has given up 14 of his 21 homers to left-handed hitters and Nelson 17 of 28. Kent gave up only four all year, none to lefties, though lefties hit .278 against him, and Perez has allowed 10 of 14 to right-handed bats.

On the mound, Crochet (19–4, 2.20 ERA) and Skubal (18–3, 2.61) set the tone again, with Díaz, who earned a win and a save against Los Angeles, and Hader waiting behind them. The Diamondbacks got their five wins in April and May. The series that counts starts Oct. 14.

FROM THE METS FILES

Tommy Judd, Jr., who started the Division Series clincher, took over a turn in the rotation on Aug. 13 with five scoreless innings and six strikeouts, kept it from there, and finished the regular season 4–2 with a 2.76 ERA in 62 innings. Six innings of one-run ball at Dodger Stadium with a series on the line was his best night yet.