

The Flushing Ledger

NEW YORK METS · BEAT COVERAGE

NLCS WRAP · WORLD SERIES PREVIEW · OCTOBER 2030

NEW YORK, N.Y.

Joaquin Buries Arizona. The Yankees Are Next, 34 Wins Behind and Hot.

The Mets beat the only team that ever beat them in a series, four games to two, and the catcher who hit .385 took series MVP. The World Series opens Oct. 23 in Flushing against a Yankees club that went 83–79 and has won nine of 14 this October.

BY MARISOL KWAN · FLUSHING LEDGER STAFF

The Mets closed out the Arizona Diamondbacks on Oct. 21 with a 5–2 win in Flushing, taking the NLCS four games to two. Garrett Crochet went 5⅓ innings, allowed one earned run and struck out nine for his second win of the series, and Josh Hader got the save. Thomas Joaquin was named series MVP after going 10-for-26 (.385/.407/.692) with two home runs, six RBI and seven runs scored. The catcher, 28, hit .268 with 34 homers and 6.3 WAR in the regular season and is now 15-for-42 (.357) in 10 playoff games.

The series was not quiet. The Mets won Game 1, 8–1, and Game 3 in Phoenix, 12–6, dropped Game 2 (7–4, with Tarik Skubal out after 1⅓ scoreless innings) and Game 4 (11–6), then won Game 5, 11–6, and the clincher. They outscored Arizona 46–33 and hit .310 as a team with nine home runs and seven steals. Jackson Holliday went 10-for-27 with five doubles, Evan Carter went 10-for-23 (.435) with three steals, and Ryan Clifford had eight RBI on six hits in 16 at-bats. Crochet, with two wins, 10⅓ innings, one earned run and 17 strikeouts, was the other half of the MVP argument.

“Only two teams in history won as many as 116 games. Neither won the title. The Mets won 117 and are four wins away.”

That 117–45 record is the backdrop, and so is the other side of it. The Yankees finished fourth in the AL East, got in as a wild card, and have beaten Cleveland 2–0, the Angels 3–2 and Boston 4–3. Their offense scored 801 runs to the Mets’ 923, hit 246 home runs to 273 and posted a .756 OPS to the Mets’ .801. Their staff has a 4.59 ERA (the Mets’ is 3.21) and 20 blown saves. In October, though, they have hit 31 homers in 14 games, and their pitchers have allowed eight in nearly 121 innings for a 3.21 ERA. The Mets staff, by comparison, has a 4.50 ERA in the playoffs and has allowed 17 homers in 10 games.

SEASON SERIES — METS 2, YANKEES 1				
DATE	SITE	RESULT	METS SP	YANKEES SP
Sep 27	NY	L 7–9	Davis	Mena
Sep 28	NY	W 6–3	Jobe	Pagan
Sep 29	NY	W 5–4	Humphries	Boyd
Mets: 18 R, 22 H. Juan Soto 6-for-12 with three homers and five RBI; Clifford 6-for-8. All three games were in Flushing.				

Their lineup is built on power from both sides. Switch-hitting catcher Cal Raleigh hit 36 homers (5.0 WAR), Jasson Dominguez hit .292 with 27 and 4.4 WAR, Deyvison De Los Santos and Pete Alonso hit 30 each, and Aaron Judge, limited to 78 games, has five homers in October. Dominguez (seven playoff homers, 3-for-3 in the clincher) and Alonso (seven) have done the damage, while Raleigh is 6-for-37 and De Los Santos is hitting .145 with 21 strikeouts. Dominguez carries a day-to-day injury flag in the export, yet he has played every game.

EXPECTED YANKEES STARTERS (GAME PROJECTION)				
GM	STARTER	ERA	OCT	HR ALLOWED
1, 5	Pagan (R)	4.85	6.43	21 of 34 to LHB
2, 6	Bergert (R)	n/a	1.35	0 in 20 IP in Oct.
3, 7	Boyd (L)	5.11	1.64	12 of 17 to RHB
4	Mena (R)	2.38	5.14	6 of 6 to LHB
Games 1 and 2 (Pagan, Bergert) are confirmed by the in-game schedule. Bergert threw 57 innings at Triple-A Scranton in 2030.				

That rotation is more beatable than the lineup. Emilio Pagan (11–12, 4.85) allowed 21 of his 34 homers to left-handed hitters, who batted .269 against him, and is 0–2 with a 6.43 ERA in October. Left-hander Matthew Boyd (5.11) has been hit hardest by righties (.326), and Cristian Mena, who came over from Pittsburgh and went 8–3 with a 2.38 ERA for New York, has allowed all six of his homers to lefties but is 2–1 with three homers and eight walks in 14 playoff innings. Ryan Bergert, a 3.14-ERA starter for San Diego in 2029, has allowed three earned runs in four October starts. Max Fried (4.26) is on the injured list with two days left and is not in the projection.

Mets fans know what a Subway Series feels like: the Yankees beat them in five games in 2000. Even so, the 1973 Mets won only 82 games and pushed Oakland to seven, and this team won 117, with an offense that has outthit the Yankees’ all year. The one thing to watch is pitching. Crochet is listed as day-to-day, and the back of the rotation, Tyler Uberstine and Jackson Humphries, gave up 10 earned runs in five innings in the NLCS.

FROM THE METS FILES
Joaquin has been the Mets’ regular catcher since 2026 and hit 38 homers with 104 RBI and 7.6 WAR in 2027, his best year. He also had a six-game rehab stint on the farm this year and hit .360 with seven homers there before returning to the Mets.