

The Flushing Ledger

NEW YORK METS · BEAT COVERAGE

NLDS PREVIEW · OCTOBER 2030

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Five of Six: Mets Open the Division Series Holding the Season Series on the Dodgers

After a 117-win season and a first-round bye, New York faces a Los Angeles club that needed all three games to get past St. Louis, and that scored just ten runs in six tries against the Mets this year.

BY MARISOL KWAN · FLUSHING LEDGER STAFF

The waiting is over. The Mets, who finished 117–45, 28 games better than any other club in baseball with a +363 run differential, open the best-of-five National League Division Series on Oct. 6 against the Los Angeles Dodgers. The Dodgers went 87–75, one game behind in the NL West, and survived the Wildcard Series by taking two of three from St. Louis: a 6–3 loss in the opener, then a 5–3 win with Shohei Ohtani starting and a 7–6 win on Oct. 4 with Yoshinobu Yamamoto on the mound. Games 1 and 2 are in Flushing on Oct. 6 and 7, Games 3 and 4 in Los Angeles on Oct. 9 and 10, and a fifth game, if needed, is back in New York on Oct. 12.

The Mets have already played this team six times, and it went about as well as the standings suggest. New York won five and outscored Los Angeles 30–10. The sweep came in Los Angeles on May 27–29: 11–3 with Tarik Skubal throwing seven shutout innings, 4–1 behind nine strikeouts from Nolan McLean, and 6–0 with Garrett Crochet tossing a two-hit shutout over nine. Back home June 4–6, the Dodgers took the opener 3–2 when Emmet Sheehan beat McLean and David Bednar closed it. The Mets then won 1–0 on June 5, with Crochet striking out 14 over seven scoreless innings, and 6–3 on June 6, when they chased Ohtani after two innings and six runs.

“Twelve home runs and 28 walks in six games: the Dodgers could not keep the Mets in the park or off the bases.”

The damage came from the middle of the order. Spencer Torkelson hit four home runs, Juan Soto hit .350 with three homers and eight RBI, and Jackson Holliday added two homers and two steals. The caveat is that those games were four months ago. The Mets have since sent Emmanuel Ramirez, who went 6-for-18 with five steals against Los Angeles, to the Dodgers for center fielder Enrique Bradfield Jr., who had gone 4-for-19 against New York as a Dodger. McLean, who started two of the six, is on the injured list.

SEASON SERIES — METS 5, DODGERS 1

DATE	SITE	RESULT	METS SP	DODGERS SP
May 27	at LA	W 11–3	Skubal	Ryan
May 28	at LA	W 4–1	McLean	Snell
May 29	at LA	W 6–0	Crochet	Sheehan
June 4	NY	L 2–3	McLean	Sheehan
June 5	NY	W 1–0	Crochet	Snell
June 6	NY	W 6–3	Jobe	Ohtani

Mets: 30 R, 12 HR, 28 BB. Dodgers: 10 R. Crochet in two starts: 16 IP, 0 R, 22 K.

The rotation the game projects for Los Angeles is Sheehan, Blake Snell, Yamamoto and Ohtani, with Sheehan returning for a fifth game. Sheehan is the best of them at 12–10 with a 2.92 ERA and 223 strikeouts in 194 innings. Snell is 6–14 with a 4.09 ERA but struck out 195 in 158⅓ innings, and has allowed one earned run to the Mets in two starts. Yamamoto is 4–5 with a 4.13 ERA in 11 starts, and Ohtani is 8–7 with a 4.35 ERA and 22 home runs allowed in 140⅓ innings. The offense is thinner: 725 runs to the Mets’ 923, 169 homers to 273, and 22 blown saves to 13. Catcher Will Smith (.296/.404/.481, 23 HR), second baseman Ryan Reckley (.289/.356/.451, 23 SB) and Ohtani, who also hit 31 home runs as the DH, carry it.

EXPECTED DODGERS STARTERS (GAME PROJECTION)

GM	DATE	STARTER	W–L	ERA	K	HR ALLOWED
1	Oct 6	Sheehan (R)	12–10	2.92	223	14 of 20 to LHB
2	Oct 7	Snell (L)	6–14	4.09	195	15 of 18 to RHB
3	Oct 9	Yamamoto (R)	4–5	4.13	66	6 of 8 to LHB
4	Oct 10	Ohtani (R)	8–7	4.35	151	13 of 22 to LHB
5	Oct 12	Sheehan (R)	12–10	2.92	223	14 of 20 to LHB

For the Mets that means a lineup that leans left. Every Dodger starter but Snell throws right-handed, and Sheehan has given up 14 of his 20 homers to lefty hitters, Ohtani 13 of 22. Snell is the reverse: 15 of his 18 went to righties, which is good news for Joaquin and Torkelson in Game 2. On the other side, Crochet (19–4, 2.20 ERA, 259 strikeouts) and Skubal (18–3, 2.61) anchor a staff that allowed the fewest runs in baseball, with Josh Hader and Edwin Díaz waiting in the ninth. The Dodgers have not beaten either ace this year. They get another chance on Oct. 6.