

The Flushing Ledger

NEW YORK METS · BEAT COVERAGE

SEPTEMBER 2030 HIGHLIGHT REPORT

NEW YORK, N.Y.

Four Hundred and Counting: Soto's Milestone Headlines an 11–3 September Surge

Clinched since Sept. 2 and 27.5 games clear of everyone, the Mets are 107–43 — 21 games better than any other team in baseball — and the stars are still getting hotter.

BY MARISOL KWAN · FLUSHING LEDGER STAFF

The Mets have been a finished product since Sept. 2, the night a 6–3 win at Colorado made the NL East arithmetic official, and the best news of September is that nobody told the team. New York is 11–3 this month, 107–43 overall, and 27.5 games ahead of second-place Washington with twelve to play. The next-best record in baseball belongs to Boston at 86–64, a 21-game gap, and the Mets' +336 run differential is more than four times the next club's. They own the league's top offense (858 runs) and its stingiest staff (522 allowed) in the same clubhouse.

The night everyone will remember was Sept. 12. Juan Soto, already in the middle of a four-game home run streak, hit career home run No. 400 against Texas — and then hit No. 401 in the same game, a 7–1 win in front of 41,512 that Garrett Crochet started and won. Soto had gone deep in four straight games from Sept. 9 to Sept. 12 for five homers in all, climbing from 396 to 401 in that span. He now has 33 home runs this season along with a .288/.382/.568 line, a .950 OPS and 98 RBI, the best OPS on a club that has no shortage of them.

“Eleven wins in fourteen games, a division title already in the bank — and the best bats are still getting hotter.”

Soto has had company. Evan Carter hit .324/.479/.649 with four homers from Sept. 1–15, good for a 1.128 OPS. Francisco Lindor went .311/.404/.689 with five homers and a team-high twelve runs scored in the 14 games. Thomas Joaquin, the catcher with the best framing numbers on the roster, got on base at a .457 clip this month and now has 31 home runs on the year. Spencer Torkelson still leads the club in both home runs (36) and RBI (116, third in all of baseball), and Jackson Holliday sits at 26 homers and 48 stolen bases. The speed is its own story: Carter's 58 steals and Holliday's

48 are second and third in the majors, behind only Chandler Simpson's 64. Six Mets have 25 or more home runs with twelve games left, and Edward Lanza is back off the injured list to give the bench even more depth.

SEPTEMBER AT A GLANCE (SEPT. 1–15)

Record	11–3
Runs scored – allowed	66 – 44
NL East clinched	Sept. 2 (98–40)
Longest win streak	8 games (Sept. 6–13)
Soto HR streak	5 HR, 4 games (Sept. 9–12)
Last 10 games	9–1

On the mound the story is the same two names at the top. Crochet is 18–4 with a 2.22 ERA, the best mark in the majors among qualifiers, a 0.94 WHIP, and 236 strikeouts in 170 innings, third in the majors. In September alone he has a 1.38 ERA and 23 strikeouts against a single walk over 13 innings. Tarik Skubal is 17–3 with a 2.59 ERA, third in the majors, and has allowed 1.80 earned per nine over three September starts. Tyler Uberstine, the swingman who has yet to lose, is 12–0 and went 3–0 this month. Jackson Jobe sits at 14–5.

The bullpen has been just as unforgiving. Josh Hader has 28 saves with a 1.95 ERA and 54 strikeouts in 37 innings; Edwin Díaz, sharing the ninth, has a 2.15 ERA and 66 strikeouts in 46. Alex Vesia, acquired from Seattle for Griffin Jax, is 3–0 with a 1.64 ERA and a 0.73 WHIP in 11 innings, and Reid Detmers has quietly held a 2.38 ERA over 53 innings without a single start.

SEPTEMBER BAT LEADERS (35+ AB)			
PLAYER	AVG/OBP/SLG	HR	RBI
Evan Carter	.324/.479/.649	4	8
Francisco Lindor	.311/.404/.689	5	7
Juan Soto	.320/.393/.660	5	11
Thomas Joaquin	.306/.457/.556	2	4

There was one real cloud. Nolan McLean, the club’s No. 3 starter at 11–5 with a 3.15 ERA, has been on the injured list since Aug. 23, and the in-game clock shows about 37 days left on the stint, which stretches well past the end of the regular season. The Mets have covered his turns without a hiccup, with Tommy Judd, Jr., Uberstine and Christian Rodriguez, who made his first major league start this month, all pitching in. The only blemishes in September were a pair of losses at Colorado (Sept. 3–4) and an 11–3 loss at Miami on Sept. 14 that snapped the eight-game win streak, followed by a 5–1 win the next day.

NL EAST STANDINGS — THROUGH SEPT. 15				
TEAM	W	L	PCT	GB
New York Mets	107	43	.713	—
Washington Nationals	79	70	.530	27.5
Atlanta Braves	76	75	.503	31.5
Miami Marlins	72	78	.480	35.0
Philadelphia Phillies	70	80	.467	37.0
Miami has gone 1–9 over its last ten and slipped from third to fourth behind Atlanta.				

With the division long since settled, the remaining twelve games are about health, rest and who lines up behind Crochet and Skubal in October. Based on what this club has done since the first of the month, the rest of the league should be nervous either way.

SEASON LEADERS	
Soto	.950 OPS • 33 HR • 98 RBI
Torkelson	36 HR • 116 RBI
Carter / Holliday	58 SB / 48 SB
Crochet	18–4 • 2.22 ERA • 236 K
Skubal	17–3 • 2.59 ERA • 182 K
Hader	28 SV • 1.95 ERA