

THE OCTOBER WIRE

Two cities, one box score — the Tigers' postseason run, covered from both benches

Correction: An earlier edition of this dispatch previewed an ALCS matchup against the Boston Red Sox. A save-file restore after a corruption issue changed the outcome of the other ALDS series — the Las Vegas Athletics beat Boston, not the other way around — so Detroit's actual Championship Series opponent is the Athletics. This edition reflects the corrected bracket.

Petry's Power Surge Sends Tigers Up 2–0 on Athletics

DETROIT, MI — Games 1–2, October 12–13, 2031 · Comerica Park · ALCS · Tigers lead series 2–0

So much for the Tigers finally facing a lineup that could match them. The Las Vegas Athletics actually out-slugged Detroit during the regular season, and on paper this looked like the toughest offensive test of the Tigers' October — instead, Detroit has scored 21 runs in two games at Comerica Park and taken a commanding 2–0 lead into the Championship Series, behind a home run barrage from Ethan Petry that has been the story of the series so far.

Game 1 wasn't close: Guo-fang Hou worked six strong innings (3 ER, 7 K) and Petry put on a show, going 3-for-5 with three home runs and four RBI as Detroit routed Las Vegas 12–4, chasing Athletics starter Ian Umlandt after just two innings. Michael Arroyo and Max Clark added solo shots of their own in the rout. Game 2 was tighter for longer, with Don Harrigan's two-homer, three-RBI night keeping Las Vegas within shouting distance, but Tarik Skubal matched Hou's Game 1 line pitch for pitch (6 IP, 2 ER, 6 K) and Petry kept it going with another home run, part of a four-homer Detroit attack that also saw Arroyo, Riley Greene, and Juan Soto all go deep in a 9–4 win.

Petry's line through two games: 4-for-9, four home runs, six RBI — a stretch that already accounts for roughly a sixth of his regular-season home run total, compressed into two nights of October baseball.

ALCS · GAMES 1–2

Game	Score		Decision
Game 1 · Oct 12	Las Vegas 4,	Detroit 12	Hou W (6 IP, 3 ER, 7 K)
Game 2 · Oct 13	Las Vegas 4,	Detroit 9	Skubal W (6 IP, 2 ER, 6 K)

Series HR log: Petry (4), Arroyo (2), Greene (1), Clark (1), Soto (1) for Detroit; Harrigan (2), Wilson (1), Kurtz (1) for Las Vegas. Detroit has out-homered the Athletics 9–4 and out-scored them 21–8 across the two games.

Marcus Delaney · Tigers beat, Motor City edition

Everyone in this front office pointed to the Athletics' lineup as the one that could actually punch back — and for two games, it hasn't mattered even a little. Ethan Petry has turned Comerica Park into his personal batting cage, and the scary part for Las Vegas is he's not doing it alone: five different Tigers have gone deep across these two games, and the top of the rotation has been every bit as good as the bats, with Hou and Skubal combining for twelve innings of two-and-three-run ball against a team that scored more runs than Detroit did during the regular season.

The only real note of caution: none of this has happened in Las Vegas yet. A 2–0 lead built entirely at home is a great start, not a finished job, and this Athletics lineup is fully capable of stringing together the kind of games Harrigan's two-homer night in Game 2 hinted at. But four wins from a title has turned into two, and after what this team just did to a lineup that was supposed to be its toughest test yet, there isn't much reason for panic in Detroit heading west.

THE LAS VEGAS TAKE

Nicole Vance · Athletics beat, Desert edition

This is not how a team that just went into Boston and won a five-game series is supposed to open a Championship Series. Ian Umlandt never found his footing in Game 1, and while Bernard Mack settled in better before the bullpen leaked runs in Game 2, the larger problem has been on the other side of the ball: a lineup built to trade haymakers with anyone in October has managed exactly one big offensive answer, Don Harrigan's two homers in a Game 2 loss that was already well out of hand by the time he connected.

The good news, such as it is: this series now heads to Las Vegas, where the Athletics get to set their own pitching matchups in front of their own crowd for the first time in the series, and a team with this much power in the lineup is one bad Tigers pitching performance away from making this interesting again. But climbing back from 0–2 against the best record in the American League, on the road, is about as hard as October gets — and after watching Detroit's rotation and lineup both peak at the same time in Games 1 and 2, this club needs its own version of a signature moment, fast.

UP NEXT

The series shifts to Las Vegas for Games 3, 4, and (if necessary) 5, beginning **October 15, 2031**. Detroit needs one more win to reach the World Series; the Athletics need to sweep all three home games just to force a return trip to Comerica Park.