



THE REMATCH.

2026 NLCS MEGA PRIMER | DODGERS vs. BREWERS | OCTOBER 2026

THE SETUP

The defending champion Dodgers are eight wins from a third straight World Series title. The Brewers won a franchise-record 103 games, own home-field advantage, and are tired of watching Los Angeles celebrate.

Milwaukee won the 2026 regular-season series 4-3. The Dodgers have won all three previous postseason series between the clubs. Something has to give.

THE SERIES IN NUMBERS

Regular season all-time (1998-2026): Dodgers 103, Brewers 81. **Postseason games:** Dodgers 10, Brewers 3.

Combined: Dodgers 113, Brewers 84, entering this NLCS.

Postseason series: 2018 NLCS (LAD 4-3); 2020 Wild Card (LAD 2-0); 2025 NLCS (LAD 4-0). Milwaukee has never beaten Los Angeles in a postseason series.

THE READER QUESTION

Does Milwaukee finally turn 103 regular-season wins into a pennant? Or do the Dodgers keep playing the role of October gatekeeper?



HOW THE DODGERS GOT HERE

A 100-win club, a title defense, and a little October turbulence.

REGULAR SEASON

Los Angeles finished 100-62 and won the NL West, earning a first-round bye. This is not a surprise contender: it is a star-heavy roster trying to do something extraordinarily rare, a World Series three-peat.

DIVISION SERIES: DODGERS 3, BRAVES 1

Game 1: a 5-3 Dodgers win built on timely home runs. Game 2: Atlanta answered 3-2. Game 3: Yoshinobu Yamamoto delivered seven innings of one-run ball with 10 strikeouts in a 3-1 win.

Game 4: Andy Pages broke a tie with a two-run seventh-inning single in a 4-1 clincher. Max Muncy added a ninth-inning homer. It was a welcome reminder that a postseason run can turn on a ball put in play rather than one launched into orbit.

THE OCTOBER IDENTITY

Starters can carry the series; the lineup can erupt; the bullpen remains the part of the movie that makes fans cover their eyes.



HOW THE BREWERS GOT HERE

103-59. Best record in baseball. And a franchise still chasing its first World Series title.

THE REGULAR-SEASON MACHINE

Milwaukee set a franchise record with 103 wins, went 55-26 at home, and was 44-22 after the All-Star break. Under Pat Murphy, the Brewers have turned run prevention, athleticism, pitching development, and relentless at-bats into a repeatable formula.

DIVISION SERIES: BREWERS 3, PADRES 1

Milwaukee eliminated San Diego with a 3-1 Game 4 road win. Jackson Chourio delivered the go-ahead RBI single; Garrett Mitchell made a spectacular eighth-inning catch on a Manny Machado drive that threatened to tie the game.

Aaron Ashby threw three hitless relief innings. Trevor Megill closed. The victory snapped a 12-game postseason road losing streak dating to 2018.

THE REAL STAKES

Milwaukee reached the 1982 World Series as an American League club but has never won a championship. The Brewers also have yet to win a National League pennant since changing leagues in 1998.



THE HISTORY BOOK

A rivalry that barely existed before interleague play became normal.

WHY THE SERIES BEGINS IN 1998

The Brewers were founded as the Seattle Pilots in 1969, moved to Milwaukee in 1970, and played in the American League through 1997. Their move to the NL in 1998 made the Dodgers a regular opponent.

2018: SEVEN GAMES, ONE PUIG

The Brewers pushed the Dodgers to Game 7 of the NLCS. In the deciding game at Miller Park, Christian Yelich homered early; Cody Bellinger hit a two-run shot; Yasiel Puig crushed a three-run homer. Walker Buehler and a deep Dodger pitching staff finished the job, sending LA to the World Series.

2020: THE TWO-GAME SWEEP

The Dodgers dispatched Milwaukee 2-0 in the expanded Wild Card Series. Clayton Kershaw struck out 13 Brewers in eight shutout innings in Game 2, one of his most dominant October performances.

2025: THE FOUR-GAME SWEEP

The Dodgers swept Milwaukee 4-0 in the NLCS and allowed just four runs in the entire series. It is the immediate ghost hanging over this rematch.

2026: REGULAR SEASON

Milwaukee took four of seven. This is not the same Brewers club that LA overwhelmed last October.



THE TWO CLUBS: SCOUTING REPORT

Different routes to winning. Same goal.

DODGERS - WHAT WORKS

Power and on-base ability: few lineups can stack the kind of dangerous plate appearances LA can. **Frontline pitching:** Yamamoto, Glasnow and company can shorten a series. **October experience:** a roster that has repeatedly played high-pressure games.

DODGERS - WHAT CAN GO WRONG

Bullpen uncertainty: leads can feel fragile after the starter exits. **Run-production bottlenecks:** the Braves series exposed how often the offense waited for the home run. **Top-order pressure:** a quiet Ohtani stretches the burden on everyone else.

BREWERS - WHAT WORKS

Home-field advantage: 55 home wins in the regular season. **Run prevention:** Milwaukee posted a 3.17 team ERA at home and held opponents to a .213 average there. **Athleticism:** speed, contact, defense and aggressive baserunning create runs without waiting for a three-run homer.

BREWERS - WHAT CAN GO WRONG

Rotation depth: questions remain behind the leading young arms. **October offensive pressure:** this franchise has struggled to cash in great regular seasons. **Dodger history:** the psychological weight of three straight postseason series losses is real, even if the roster insists this year is different.



WHO IS HOT? WHO NEEDS A SPARK?

The postseason is a tiny sample. The trends still make good television.

MILWAUKEE: THE HEAT

Jackson Chourio: delivered the Game 4 go-ahead hit and has already become the franchise postseason RBI leader.

Garrett Mitchell: two hits, an RBI, a run, and a potentially series-saving catch in the NLDS clincher. **Aaron Ashby:** three hitless innings in that same elimination game.

LOS ANGELES: THE HEAT

Yoshinobu Yamamoto: a seven-inning, 10-strikeout Game 3 masterpiece. **Andy Pages:** the decisive two-run single in Game 4. **Max Muncy:** homered in the clincher.

WHO NEEDS THE NEXT BIG MOMENT?

Shohei Ohtani: relatively quiet at the plate in the NLDS by his own standards. **Dodgers with men on base:** Game 4 finally delivered the kind of non-homer scoring LA had been missing. **Milwaukee starters beyond the top options:** the deeper this series goes, the more their innings matter.

READER RULE

Do not confuse a four-game hot streak with a permanent skill change. But in October, four games can decide your winter.



THE SHARED UNIFORM CLUB

Famous, infamous, and the gloriously forgotten.

THE HEADLINERS

Yasmani Grandal: Dodgers catcher from 2015-18; a Brewer in 2019, when he made the All-Star team. **Hideo Nomo:** the 1995 NL Rookie of the Year with LA, later a Brewer in 1999. **Eric Gagne:** 2003 NL Cy Young winner as a Dodger; pitched for Milwaukee in 2008.

Jonathan Schoop: briefly a Brewer in 2018 and a Dodger in 2025. **Jesse Winker:** a Brewer in 2023 and a Dodger in 2026. **Dustin May:** long associated with LA, acquired by Milwaukee in 2026.

DEEP-CUT DIVISION

Jim Colborn: pitched for the Brewers in the 1970s, then the Dodgers; later a Dodgers pitching coach. **Rick Honeycutt:** pitched for both clubs and became a long-serving LA pitching coach.

THE READER GAME

How many dual-uniform players can you name before somebody says Grandal? Bonus points for a relief pitcher nobody else at the bar remembers.



MEET THE BREWERS

The strangest, best parts of Milwaukee baseball lore.

THE PILOTS WHO NEVER LANDED

The franchise began as the **Seattle Pilots** in 1969. After one season, financial problems sent the team to Milwaukee, where it became the Brewers in 1970. The nickname is a nod to the city's brewing tradition.

THE BALL-IN-GLOVE LOGO

The beloved classic Brewers logo is an optical trick: a lowercase **m** and **b** form a baseball glove. Once you see it, you cannot unsee it.

HARVEY'S WALLBANGERS

The 1982 Brewers were a fearsome power-hitting club managed by Harvey Kuenn, nicknamed **Harvey's Wallbangers**. They reached the only World Series in franchise history, losing in seven games to St. Louis.

MR. BASEBALL

Bob Uecker, the longtime Brewers broadcaster and self-deprecating comedian, became as essential to Milwaukee baseball as bratwurst. His broadcasts, humor and statue are part of the franchise's identity.

THE SAUSAGE RACE

Costumed racing sausages - Bratwurst, Polish, Italian, Hot Dog and Chorizo - became a Milwaukee institution. Yes, there are people who passionately root for a specific sausage.



COUNTY STADIUM: A LOVE LETTER

The place you saw when you were four. Baseball memories do not need a full box score.

1953-2000: THE OLD CONCRETE WORKHORSE

Milwaukee County Stadium opened in 1953 and hosted the Milwaukee Braves before the Brewers arrived in 1970. It closed after the 2000 season, replaced by Miller Park (now American Family Field) in 2001.

It hosted the 1957 and 1958 World Series as the Braves' home park. Led by Hank Aaron and Lew Burdette, the 1957 Braves defeated the Yankees in seven games for Milwaukee's first major-league baseball championship.

IT WAS A FOOTBALL STADIUM, TOO

The Green Bay Packers played regular-season home games in Milwaukee for decades; County Stadium hosted them from 1953 through 1994. One stadium, two Wisconsin baseball/football identities.

BERNIE'S ORIGINAL CHALET

At County Stadium, Bernie Brewer occupied a chalet beyond the outfield and slid into a giant beer stein after home runs. The setup was inspired by Milt Mason, who lived in a trailer atop the scoreboard for 40 days in 1970 to promote attendance.

A GOOD MEMORY TEST

If you remember the outfield chalet, the open-air summer nights, the concrete concourses, or the roar of a Milwaukee crowd, you remember a ballpark that no longer exists. Four-year-old you got a pretty good baseball souvenir.



BERNIE, BONNIE & OTHER ODDITIES

Milwaukee has never been afraid to be wonderfully weird.

THE ORIGINAL BERNIE WAS A HUMAN

Retired engineer **Milt Mason** took up residence atop the County Stadium scoreboard in 1970, complete with stove, bathtub, exercise bike and a television. After a 40,000-fan crowd freed him, he slid down a rope and badly burned his hands. His stunt inspired Bernie Brewer.

BERNIE ON ICE

Bernie's chalet disappeared during a 1984 bleacher renovation and returned in 1993 after fans demanded it. The character survived the move to the new park, though the beer-stein landing did not.

AND THEN THERE WAS BONNIE

For a stretch in the 1970s, **Bonnie Brewer** ran onto the field to sweep off the bases, sometimes kissing an opposing third-base coach on the cheek. Imagine proposing that in a modern MLB operations meeting.

THE DODGERS CONNECTION TO THE SLIDE

In 2022, Dodgers reporter David Vassegh famously injured himself riding Bernie's slide during a Milwaukee road trip. Even the mascot tradition has managed to become part of Dodger lore.



KEYS TO THE SERIES

The things that decide seven games - or four.

IF THE DODGERS WIN

1. Get five-plus strong innings from the starters and avoid nightly bullpen emergencies. **2.** Make Milwaukee pitch from behind; do not let the Brewers turn every game into a late-inning speed-and-defense contest. **3.** Get Ohtani producing again and use the entire field with runners in scoring position. **4.** Steal a game in Milwaukee, where the Brewers were 55-26.

IF THE BREWERS WIN

1. Turn their home field into a genuine advantage in Games 1 and 2. **2.** Keep Dodger power in the park and force LA to string together hits. **3.** Put pressure on LA defense and bullpen with speed and contact. **4.** Get enough length from the rotation to protect their best late-inning relievers.

THE SWING FACTOR

Which team scores the ordinary runs? The Dodgers have the star power. Milwaukee has the relentless manufacturing process. The NL pennant may belong to the club that can do both.



THE READER TRIVIA ROUND

No cheating. No phone. No asking the guy in the Yelich jersey.

TEN QUESTIONS

1. What was the Brewers franchise called in its first season?
2. In what year did Milwaukee join the National League?
3. Which Dodger hit a three-run homer in Game 7 of the 2018 NLCS?
4. Which Dodger struck out 13 Brewers in the 2020 Wild Card Series?
5. What letters form the classic Brewers ball-in-glove logo?
6. Who was the original real-life Bernie Brewer?
7. What did Bernie slide into at County Stadium?
8. Which Wisconsin NFL team also played home games at County Stadium?
9. What was the nickname of Milwaukee's 1982 slugging team?
10. How many Dodgers-Brewers postseason series had LA won before this NLCS?

ANSWERS

1. Seattle Pilots. 2. 1998. 3. Yasiel Puig. 4. Clayton Kershaw. 5. m and b. 6. Milt Mason. 7. A beer stein. 8. Green Bay Packers. 9. Harvey's Wallbangers. 10. Three.



THE SERIES SCOREBOARD

Seven possible games. One National League pennant.

FOLLOW ALONG

Game 1: Milwaukee | Sunday, Oct. 11 | Result: _____

Game 2: Milwaukee | Result: _____

Game 3: Los Angeles | Result: _____

Game 4: Los Angeles | Result: _____

Game 5 (if needed): Los Angeles | Result: _____

Game 6 (if needed): Milwaukee | Result: _____

Game 7 (if needed): Milwaukee | Result: _____

THE FINAL WORD

The Brewers have 103 wins and an old score to settle. The Dodgers have three straight postseason series victories over Milwaukee and a third straight championship in their sights.

Let us have ourselves a proper October series.

RESEARCH NOTES

Head-to-head: Stathead / Sports Reference. 2026 postseason: MLB.com Dodgers and Brewers NLDS recaps; Reuters Oct. 8. 2026 matchup: MLB.com NLCS preview; Los Angeles Times Oct. 7. County Stadium and mascot: MLB.com Milt Mason history; historical MLB postseason records.

Sources: sports-reference.com/stathead/baseball/vs/los-angeles-dodgers-vs-milwaukee-brewers ;
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