



THE MILWAUKEE HANGOVER

TIME TO SOBER UP AT THE RAVINE.

NLCS GAME 3 | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026 | DODGER STADIUM | 5:00 PM PT | FS1

A QUICK AUTOPSY. THEN WE MOVE ON.

Game 1: Brewers 2, Dodgers 1. An offense that could not cash its chances. **Game 2:** Brewers 7, Dodgers 4. The Dodgers managed four runs on just three hits; Milwaukee piled up 12 hits, and William Contreras drove in three. The Brewers lead the series 2-0.

Milwaukee has outscored Los Angeles **9-5** in two games. And the Brewers bullpen retired all 15 Dodgers it faced Monday. Fifteen up. Fifteen down. That is less a bullpen outing than a building evacuation.

TONIGHT: WIN ONE GAME

Blake Snell (LHP) vs. Robert Gasser (LHP). Snell is trying to give Los Angeles length after a short NLDS start. Gasser lost both his 2026 regular-season starts against the Dodgers, allowing seven earned runs in 10 2/3 innings. Encouraging? Yes. A guarantee? Absolutely not.

The Dodgers are back home, the fans are restless, and the baseball gods have been presented with a formal complaint. **Forget winning four. Win tonight.**

THE READER MISSION

A clean defensive inning. A hit with a runner in scoring position. An actual rally before the Milwaukee bullpen appears. We are setting the bar at “competent baseball,” and frankly that feels ambitious.



THE OFFICIAL LINEUP DESK

Stats exactly as shown on the provided MLB lineup screenshot.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS

# / DODGERS	B	HR	RBI	SB	AVG	OPS
1 Betts, SS	R	0	0	0	.286	.730
2 Freeman, 1B	L	0	1	0	.143	.268
3 T. Hernandez, LF	R	0	1	0	.286	.536
4 Tucker, RF	L	0	0	0	.200	.829
5 Pages, CF	R	0	1	0	.167	.453
6 Ohtani, DH	L	0	0	0	.143	.393
7 W. Smith, C	R	0	0	0	.000	.125
8 M. Rojas, 3B	R	0	0	0	.000	.000
9 Edman, 2B	S	0	0	0	.500	1.000

MILWAUKEE BREWERS

# / BREWERS	B	HR	RBI	SB	AVG	OPS
1 J. Chourio, LF	R	0	0	0	.222	.444
2 Turang, 2B	L	1	2	0	.600	2.150
3 Wm. Contreras, C	R	1	3	0	.429	1.413
4 Vaughn, DH	R	0	0	0	.333	1.167
5 Bauers, 1B	L	0	1	0	.286	.730
6 Mitchell, CF	L	0	0	0	.000	.222
7 Pratt, SS	R	0	0	0	.333	.666
8 Lara, RF	S	0	1	0	.333	.666
9 J. Ortiz, 3B	R	0	0	0	.000	.000

B = batting side; HR = home runs; RBI = runs batted in; SB = stolen bases. AVG and OPS are the early-series values displayed in the supplied screenshot, **not season totals**.



TWO LEFTIES. ONE URGENT NIGHT.

BLAKE SNELL: MAKE THEM EARN IT

Snell has the stuff to overwhelm any lineup, but command is the hinge. Against Atlanta in the NLDS, he walked five in 3 2/3 innings while allowing just one run. In last year's NLCS against Milwaukee, he delivered eight scoreless innings and 10 strikeouts. Tonight the Dodgers need the second version.

Screenshot postseason line: 0-0, 2.45 ERA, 5 K. **Focus:** get ahead, keep the pitch count manageable, and let the defense make routine plays.

ROBERT GASSER: A LEAK IN THE PIPE?

Gasser's **2026 regular-season record against Los Angeles: 0-2, 5.91 ERA**, with seven earned runs in 10 2/3 innings. His sweeper has helped fuel a strong late-season stretch, so those prior results are useful context, not permission to swing at everything.

Screenshot postseason line: 0-0, 2.25 ERA, 3 K. **Focus:** get traffic on early and score before the Brewers' relief corps turns the lights out.

THE MATCHUP INSIDE THE MATCHUP

Andy Pages, Teoscar Hernandez and Tommy Edman have each homered off Gasser in prior regular-season matchups. But Muncy, who also has faced Gasser, is not in tonight's starting lineup. The relevant question is whether the hitters *actually playing* can make the advantage count.

Tonight's batting order has Tucker cleanup, Pages fifth, and Ohtani sixth. That is not a lineup shuffle; that is an intervention.



HOT, COLD & VERY COLD

MILWAUKEE: THE USUAL SUSPECTS

William Contreras: Three hits and three RBI in Game 2; his early-series line in the supplied screenshot is .429 AVG / 1.413 OPS. **Brice Turang:** .600 AVG / 2.150 OPS, with a homer and two RBI. **Brewers bullpen:** a 0.31 postseason ERA entering Game 3, according to MLB's pregame preview. The bullpen is currently less "relief" and more "no refunds."

LOS ANGELES: SOMEBODY FIND THE COFFEE

Kyle Tucker: .829 OPS in the screenshot and promoted to cleanup. **Tommy Edman:** .500 AVG / 1.000 OPS in a tiny early-series sample. **Shohei Ohtani:** .143 AVG / .393 OPS, now batting sixth. **Will Smith:** .000 AVG / .125 OPS. These are two-game numbers; do not mistake them for a season-long verdict.

THE BIGGER OFFENSIVE PROBLEM

The Dodgers are 2-for-26 with runners in scoring position through their first six postseason games, according to the latest reporting. Hits are scarce, productive outs are scarce, and the bullpen is not getting any easier.

THREE KEYS TO A WIN

1. Score early against Gasser. **2.** Let Snell work with a lead instead of a three-ring circus. **3.** Do not give Milwaukee free outs. One clean baseball game would feel like a spa day.



A CASE OF THE MONDAYS

THE GOOD KIND.

RICK MONDAY RETURNS TO THE RAVINE

Rick Monday is scheduled to throw tonight's ceremonial first pitch. A lovely piece of October symmetry: in the decisive fifth game of the 1981 NLCS, Monday homered off Montreal's Steve Rogers in the ninth inning to break a 1-1 tie. Los Angeles won 2-1 and advanced to the World Series.

That 1981 homer came on a day baseball fans still call **Blue Monday** — a terrible Monday for Montreal, a magnificent one for the Dodgers. Tonight the stakes are different: this is Game 3, not an elimination game. But the assignment is familiar. **One big moment can change the mood of an entire series.**

RANDOM DODGER: JIM COLBORN

Our Milwaukee crossover pick: **Jim Colborn**, a right-handed pitcher who won 20 games for the Brewers in 1973 and later pitched for the Dodgers in 1978. Not the first name you shout during a Dodgers-Brewers history quiz, which is exactly why he belongs here.

THIS DAY IN DODGER HISTORY: OCTOBER 14

The calendar has a sense of humor: tomorrow, October 15, is the anniversary of Kirk Gibson's 1988 World Series Game 1 homer. But today we stay with Monday and the 1981 pennant, because borrowing tomorrow's magic is not a substitute for scoring tonight.



HOME COOKIN' CHECKLIST

The only recipe we need tonight.

- ☐ Make the routine plays. No gifts.
- ☐ Force Gasser to work. Then make him pay.
- ☐ Get somebody home from second base. Revolutionary concept.
- ☐ Keep Snell out of the high-pitch-count danger zone.
- ☐ Give the home crowd a reason to stay loud.
- ☐ Win one game. Worry about Game 4 tomorrow.

READER TRIVIA

1. Which former Dodger is throwing tonight's ceremonial first pitch?
2. Against which team did Rick Monday hit his famous 1981 NLCS home run?
3. Who drove in three runs for Milwaukee in Game 2?
4. Which Dodgers outfielder moves to the cleanup spot tonight?
5. How many consecutive Dodgers did Milwaukee relievers retire in Game 2?

ANSWERS

1. Rick Monday. 2. Montreal Expos. 3. William Contreras. 4. Kyle Tucker. 5. Fifteen.

THE LAST WORD

Nothing good ever came easy. Neither does a hit with runners in scoring position, apparently. We do not need speeches, guarantees, or a miracle. **Just win today.**

