



FINISH IT.

NLDS GAME 4 | Dodgers at Braves | Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2026 | 3:00 PM PT | Truist Park | FS1 / FOX One

ONE WIN FROM THE NLCS.

Yoshinobu Yamamoto handed the Dodgers exactly what an ace is supposed to hand them: seven innings, one run, 10 strikeouts and a **3-1 Game 3 win**. Now Tyler Glasnow gets the baseball with Los Angeles leading the series 2-1.

GLASNOW	MAHLE	SERIES
5-2	7-10	2-1
3.53 ERA 98 K	3.99 ERA 137 K	Dodgers can clinch tonight

GAME 3: THE KING TOOK THE MOUND

Yamamoto: 7 IP, 4 H, 1 ER, 10 K. Atlanta went 0-for-6 with runners in scoring position and never found a sustained answer. The offense finally broke through against Chris Sale in the fourth. **Kike Hernandez launched a two-run homer**, and Freddie Freeman followed with a solo shot. Three runs. That was enough. Tanner Scott handled the eighth. Edwin Diaz finished the ninth. No bullpen adventure. No late October heart attack.

YAMAMOTO DID HIS JOB. NOW GO CASH THE CHECK.



OFFICIAL LINEUPS

THE CLINCHING CARD

DODGERS

#	PLAYER	POS
1	Mookie Betts	SS
2	Freddie Freeman	1B
3	Will Smith	C
4	Shohei Ohtani	DH
5	Teoscar Hernandez	LF
6	Max Muncy	3B
7	Kike Hernandez	2B
8	Kyle Tucker	RF
9	Andy Pages	CF

BRAVES

#	PLAYER	POS
1	Michael Harris II	CF
2	Ronald Acuna Jr.	RF
3	Matt Olson	1B
4	Ozzie Albies	2B
5	Drake Baldwin	DH
6	Mike Yastrzemski	LF
7	Mauricio Dubon	SS
8	Austin Riley	3B
9	Sean Murphy	C

DAVE MOVES OHTANI AGAIN

After batting fifth in Game 3, **Shohei Ohtani moves to cleanup**. Freddie Freeman jumps to No. 2, Will Smith hits third, and the lineup alternates handedness all the way through the order.

Max Muncy returns at third. Miguel Rojas is out of the lineup with back tightness. Kike, fresh off the biggest swing of Game 3, stays in the lineup and moves to second base.

Atlanta counters with its own shuffle: the scorching Michael Harris II leads off, Ronald Acuna Jr. returns to right field, and Drake Baldwin drops to fifth.



THE MATCHUP

TYLER vs. TYLER

Tyler Glasnow finished the regular season strong and brings one of baseball's best strikeout rates into his first start of this postseason. His 11.92 K/9 ranked fourth among MLB starters with at least 70 innings.

Tyler Mahle is no soft landing. Atlanta acquired him at the deadline after a rough first half with San Francisco, and he responded with a **1.99 ERA over nine regular-season starts as a Brave**. He then held Philadelphia to one run over seven innings in the Wild Card round.

WE HAVE SEEN THIS GUY BEFORE

On April 22, while still a Giant, Mahle blanked the Dodgers for **seven innings**: three hits, two walks, five strikeouts. San Francisco won 3-0.

So no, surviving Chris Sale does not mean the Dodgers have reached the easy part of the menu.

WHO LIKES MAHLE?

Freddie Freeman: 8-for-19 (.421), HR, 6 RBI, 3 BB - 1.132 OPS.

Max Muncy: 6-for-19 (.316), double, 2 RBI, 2 BB.

Kike Hernandez: 2-for-3 with an RBI - tiny sample, but October Kike apparently does not care about sample sizes.

Freddie has the most substantial favorable history, and Roberts moved him right behind Mookie for a reason.

THE ELEPHANT IN THE BATTER'S BOX

The Dodgers have scored **10 runs in this series**. **Every one has come via home run**. They are also **0-for-13 with runners in scoring position**. The long ball is wonderful. A two-out single with a man on second would also be accepted.

SOMEONE PLEASE SCORE A BORING RUN.



THIS DAY IN DODGER HISTORY

OCTOBER 7, 1977

Philadelphia still calls it **Black Friday**. Dodgers fans can call it one of the strangest ninth innings in franchise history.

L.A. trailed the Phillies **5-3 with two outs and nobody on** in Game 3 of the NLCS at Veterans Stadium. Gene Garber had retired eight straight Dodgers. The game looked over.

Then pinch-hitter **Vic Davalillo dragged a bunt for a hit**. Manny Mota followed with a two-strike shot to left that Greg Luzinski could not secure at the wall. Davalillo scored. Mota wound up at third.

Davey Lopes smashed a ball that deflected off Mike Schmidt. Larry Bowa recovered and fired to first, but umpire Bruce Froemming called Lopes safe - a call Philadelphia has been arguing about for 49 years. Mota scored the tying run.

Garber then threw away a pickoff attempt, Lopes advanced, and **Bill Russell singled him home**. Dodgers 6, Phillies 5.

The next day L.A. beat Steve Carlton 4-1 and went to the World Series.

TWO OUTS. NOBODY ON. DOWN TWO. OCTOBER IS WEIRD.

THE LESSON FOR TONIGHT

Atlanta is the team facing elimination now. Do not give a desperate club extra outs, extra baserunners or extra belief. The 1977 Dodgers are a pretty good reminder of what can happen when a team refuses to go quietly.



RANDOM DODGER

LANCE RAUTZHAN

You want random? Meet the winning pitcher from that October 7, 1977 chaos.

Lance Rautzhan was a left-handed reliever from Pottsville, Pennsylvania. The Dodgers drafted him in the third round in 1970, and after years as a minor-league starter he reached Los Angeles in July 1977.

He made only **80 relief appearances as a Dodger** across parts of three seasons. But one of his six major-league wins came in a game people in Philadelphia still remember half a century later.

Rautzhan worked in relief in Game 3 of the 1977 NLCS and became the pitcher of record when Davalillo, Mota, Lopes and Russell manufactured that impossible ninth-inning comeback. He also appeared in both the 1977 and 1978 World Series.

While playing professionally, he served in the **Coast Guard Reserve**. After baseball, he eventually ran a hotel. That, friends, is a Random Dodger.

80 DODGER GAMES. SIX WINS. ONE VERY ANGRY CITY.

READER TRIVIA

1. Who hit the two-run homer that opened the scoring in Game 3?
2. Which current Dodger is 8-for-19 lifetime against Tyler Mahle?
3. What pinch-hitter started the Dodgers' two-out ninth-inning rally on Oct. 7, 1977 with a bunt single?
4. Who was the winning pitcher in that 1977 game?

Answers: 1) Kike Hernandez. 2) Freddie Freeman. 3) Vic Davalillo. 4) Lance Rautzhan.



OCTOBER NOTES

DO NOT PACK FOR GAME 5.

HOT

Freddie Freeman: homered again in Game 3 and owns the best career line against Mahle in tonight's Dodger lineup.

Kike Hernandez: two-run Game 3 homer, stays in the lineup.

Andy Pages: coming off a multi-hit Game 3.

Michael Harris II: Atlanta's hottest bat moves all the way to leadoff.

THE GLASNOW JOB DESCRIPTION

Give them length. Miss bats. Keep the crowd waiting for a reason to explode. The Dodgers used only Scott and Diaz behind Yamamoto last night, which leaves Dave Roberts with a much healthier bullpen map if Glasnow can get through the middle innings.

READER MISSION

Watch the first two trips through the order for one thing: **can the Dodgers score without homering?** Mahle has already shown he can keep this lineup in the yard. Make him work, take the extra base, cash in a runner in scoring position, and force Atlanta to play from behind.

And if a home run happens to show up too? We are not unreasonable people.

TONIGHT'S VIBE

No looking ahead to the NLCS. No assuming Game 5 is a safety net. Atlanta is dangerous, its season is on the line, and Truist Park will be loud.

Finish it here.



RAVINE READER SCORECARD

NLDS GAME 4 - DODGERS AT BRAVES

Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2026 | Truist Park | 3:00 PM PT | FS1 / FOX One

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
LAD												
ATL												

SCORING / NOTES

FINAL THOUGHT

The ace got you here. Now finish the job.

FINISH IT.