



THE RAVINE READER | ISSUE NO. 1

# ST. LOUIS CARDINALS AT LOS ANGELES DODGERS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

7:10 PM PT | UNIQLO FIELD AT DODGER STADIUM

Michael McGreevy (RHP) vs. Eric Lauer (LHP)

SERIES OPENER | HOMESTAND OPENER | LA KINGS NIGHT

## PREGAME TRIVIA - ANSWERS ON THE FINAL PAGE

1. Which Dodger hit the walk-off home run that eliminated St. Louis in the 2021 NL Wild Card Game?
2. What was the first season these two franchises met?
3. Which former Dodger became famous for a walk-off homer against LA in the 1985 NLCS?

**THE ROGER OWENS PEANUT COUNTER: 69th Dodgers season - serving fans since 1958, four years before Dodger Stadium opened.**

Free unofficial Dodgers game notes. Matchups, history, trivia and assorted Dodger lore. Enjoy whatever catches your eye and go about your day.

# Tonight at a Glance

| Club        | Record | Division     | Last 10 | Streak | Run Diff.      |
|-------------|--------|--------------|---------|--------|----------------|
| St. Louis   | 68-70  | NL Central   | —       | L1     | -85 (610-695)* |
| Los Angeles | 82-55  | 1st, NL West | 6-4     | W1     | +153 (670-517) |

## Broadcast & conditions

| First pitch | Television                  | Radio            | Forecast                                           |
|-------------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 7:10 PM PT  | SportsNet LA / Cardinals.TV | AM 570 LA Sports | 73°F at first pitch; clear, falling into upper 60s |

## The short version

**The standings:** Los Angeles opens September with a 9.5-game NL West lead and 25 games remaining. The Dodgers are positioned for October, but the chase for a first-round bye and sharper play against quality opponents remains very much alive.

**The matchup:** Lauer returns from a brief bullpen turn to cover a rotation opening created by Roki Sasaki’s blister. McGreevy brings the better full-season ERA, but he has been hit hard lately: 6.82 ERA and 1.72 WHIP over his last seven starts.

**The roster boost:** Will Smith is back after missing nearly three months with neck inflammation. Dalton Rushing and All-Star left-hander Justin Wroblewski were also activated, while Alex Freeland was recalled as rosters expanded.

## Five things to watch

1. How quickly Smith settles back in behind the plate and at the plate.
2. Whether the Dodgers attack McGreevy early; his recent line suggests traffic is likely.
3. Lauer’s home form versus his uneven overall season numbers.
4. The right-handed bats: LA’s left-handed hitters have been the stronger offensive unit this year.
5. September urgency: the Dodgers went 13-14 in August despite stabilizing the top of the rotation.

# Starting Pitcher Matchup

| Pitcher               | Thro<br>ws | W-L | ERA  | WHIP | IP    | H   | BB | K  | HR |
|-----------------------|------------|-----|------|------|-------|-----|----|----|----|
| Michael McGreevy, STL | R          | 5-9 | 3.86 | 1.25 | 142.1 | 140 | 38 | 98 | 20 |
| Eric Lauer, LAD       | L          | 8-6 | 4.78 | 1.26 | 105.1 | 99  | 34 | 70 | 24 |

## McGreevy: current form

The season line is sturdy, but the arrow has pointed down recently. Over his last seven starts: **1-2, 6.82 ERA, 34.1 IP, 45 H, 14 BB, 27 K and a 1.72 WHIP**. That creates a clear LA objective: make him work from the stretch and force strikes in hitter-friendly counts.

| McGreevy window | W-L | ERA  | IP    | H   | ER | BB | K  | WHIP |
|-----------------|-----|------|-------|-----|----|----|----|------|
| Last 7 starts   | 1-2 | 6.82 | 34.1  | 45  | 26 | 14 | 27 | 1.72 |
| Season          | 5-9 | 3.86 | 142.1 | 140 | 61 | 38 | 98 | 1.25 |

## Lauer: assignment and shape

Lauer last worked two innings in relief on August 26 and now slides back into the rotation. His aggregate 4.78 ERA includes his earlier Toronto work; reporting around the club notes that he has been substantially better since joining Los Angeles and especially effective in five Dodger Stadium starts.

**Key concern:** the long ball. Lauer has allowed 24 home runs in 105.1 innings. St. Louis does not have an elite team offense, but Jordan Walker’s 27 homers give the Cardinals a genuine mistake-pitch threat.

## Game-plan lens

| When LA bats                                                                                                                        | When St. Louis bats                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Prioritize baserunners and avoid expanding early. McGreevy has allowed 59 baserunners in 34.1 innings across his last seven starts. | Make Lauer’s opponents earn rallies without the home run. Smith’s return should help sequencing and game management. |

# Offensive Snapshot

| Team        | AVG  | OBP  | SLG  | Runs | Hits  | HR  |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|-------|-----|
| St. Louis   | .240 | .315 | .381 | 610  | 1,115 | 143 |
| Los Angeles | .258 | .335 | .422 | 670  | 1,189 | 169 |

## Dodgers headline hitters

| Player            | AVG  | OBP  | SLG  | HR | RBI | Pregame note                                                 |
|-------------------|------|------|------|----|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Freddie Freeman   | .304 | .378 | .461 | —  | —   | Team batting-average leader; reached base four times Sunday. |
| Shohei Ohtani     | .280 | —    | —    | 30 | 80  | Last 7: .133/.188/.233; still the club HR/RBI leader.        |
| Teoscar Hernández | —    | —    | —    | —  | —   | Homered Sunday and reached base three times.                 |
| Will Smith        | .249 | —    | —    | 6  | 23  | Activated today after neck inflammation; 52 games played.    |

## Cardinals headline hitters

| Player        | AVG   | OBP   | SLG   | HR | RBI | Pregame note                                         |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|----|-----|------------------------------------------------------|
| Alec Burleson | .288  | .353  | .476  | 21 | 100 | Club leader in average and RBI.                      |
| Jordan Walker | .285  | —     | —     | 27 | 97  | Top St. Louis home-run threat.                       |
| Masyn Winn    | .240* | .319* | .340* | —  | —   | Last 30 games shown; speed and middle-infield value. |

## Trend line

Los Angeles scored only 104 runs in August and was outscored 106-104 while finishing 13-14. Freddie Freeman went homerless in 26 August games, and several regulars produced below their customary levels. Sunday's 6-1 win in Detroit—powered by Teoscar Hernández and four times on base from Freeman—offered a more encouraging template.

\* Masyn Winn values reflect his last 30 games. Dashes indicate a figure not used in this trial edition rather than zero.

# Dodgers Club Notes

## September roster reset

| Move                        | Why it matters                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Will Smith activated        | Returns from 60-day IL after neck inflammation; completed a five-game Triple-A rehab assignment.               |
| Dalton Rushing activated    | Returns with a left-elbow limitation; gives LA added catching depth.                                           |
| Justin Wroblewski activated | The 2026 All-Star left-hander returns from forearm inflammation and is expected to bolster the pitching staff. |
| Alex Freeland recalled      | Adds multi-position infield depth as rosters expand.                                                           |
| Ben Rortvedt designated     | Corresponding roster move; Alek Thomas was optioned.                                                           |

## Injury watch

| Player        | Issue                             | Status / implication                                                 |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Shohei Ohtani | Left knee, right biceps, soreness | Pitching return remains TBD; offensive availability is the priority. |
| Roki Sasaki   | Right middle-finger blister       | Placed on 15-day IL; opened tonight's rotation spot.                 |

| Player      | Issue    | Status / implication                                                        |
|-------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Andy Pages  | Hand     | Reported out into September; removes a regular center-field option.         |
| Edwin Díaz  | Neck     | Recent IL absence affects the late-inning bullpen mix.                      |
| Gavin Stone | Shoulder | Rehab progression continued with four scoreless Triple-A innings last week. |

### October lens

The front four cited around the club—Tarik Skubal, Yoshinobu Yamamoto, Blake Snell and Tyler Glasnow—combined for a 2.22 ERA across 16 August starts. Tonight is less about defining the postseason rotation and more about protecting innings, restoring depth and letting Lauer bridge an injury-created opening.

## Opponent & Series Notes

### St. Louis enters Los Angeles

The Cardinals arrive at 68-70 after a 5-4 loss to Pittsburgh on Sunday. They remain on the fringe of the NL Wild Card picture, making every September series consequential. Their offense trails LA in average, on-base percentage, slugging, runs, hits and home runs, but Burleson and Walker form a dangerous middle-of-the-order core.

### Series pitching map

| Date          | Cardinals             | Dodgers                 | Time    |
|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Tue., Sept. 1 | Michael McGreevy, RHP | Eric Lauer, LHP         | 7:10 PM |
| Wed., Sept. 2 | TBD                   | Yoshinobu Yamamoto, RHP | 7:10 PM |
| Thu., Sept. 3 | TBD                   | Tarik Skubal, LHP       | 7:10 PM |

### Dodgers’ September runway

This is the first game of a nine-game homestand and the beginning of a favorable closing schedule: 49 of LA’s 82 wins have come against sub-.500 opponents. The practical challenge is to convert schedule advantage into better offensive rhythm while preserving the club’s healthiest starting pitchers.

### By the numbers

|         |       |       |           |              |
|---------|-------|-------|-----------|--------------|
| 82-55   | 40-26 | 42-29 | 34-38     | 49-19        |
| Overall | Home  | Road  | vs. .500+ | vs. sub-.500 |

### Tonight’s fan detail

The promotion is **LA Kings Night**. First pitch comes under clear skies with a comfortable temperature slide from roughly 73°F toward the upper 60s—excellent late-summer baseball weather.

### Chavez Ravine quick hits

|              |                                                                                    |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1962         | Dodger Stadium opened April 10 against Cincinnati.                                 |
| 56,000       | Its traditional listed capacity, making it baseball’s largest stadium by capacity. |
| Third-oldest | Only Fenway Park and Wrigley Field are older among current MLB parks.              |

## Rivalry File & This Day in History

### An old National League rivalry

The Cardinals and Dodgers first met on **May 29, 1884**, when the clubs were known as the St. Louis Browns and Brooklyn Atlantics. Through their most recent meeting before tonight, St. Louis held the historical edge with **1,113 regular-season**

wins to the Dodgers' 1,098, plus nine ties. St. Louis also leads the postseason matchup 14-10.

| Series category     | St. Louis  | Dodgers    | Notes                                  |
|---------------------|------------|------------|----------------------------------------|
| Regular season      | 1,113 wins | 1,098 wins | First meeting: May 29, 1884; nine ties |
| Postseason          | 14 wins    | 10 wins    | Six postseason meetings                |
| World Series titles | 11         | 9          | Combined 20 championships through 2025 |

October meetings

| Year / round      | Result       | Signature memory                                           |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1985 NLCS         | STL won, 4-2 | Ozzie Smith's Game 5 walk-off; Jack Clark's Game 6 homer.  |
| 2004 NLDS         | STL won, 3-1 | The 105-win Cardinals advanced.                            |
| 2009 NLDS         | LAD won, 3-0 | LA swept; Mark Loretta delivered a Game 2 walk-off single. |
| 2013 NLCS         | STL won, 4-2 | Cardinals captured the pennant.                            |
| 2014 NLDS         | STL won, 3-1 | St. Louis eliminated LA for a second straight October.     |
| 2021 NL Wild Card | LAD won, 3-1 | Chris Taylor's two-run walk-off homer ended it.            |

September 1 in Dodgers history

| Year | The moment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2018 | Matt Kemp hit a two-strike, three-run homer in the eighth to beat Arizona 3-2 and tie the NL West. TIME CAPSULE: Gas averaged about \$2.72/gal that year; Drake's "In My Feelings" topped Billboard; Crazy Rich Asians led the box office; Donald Trump was president. |
| 2024 | A rough entry in the ledger: Arizona scored eight times in the second inning and beat LA 14-3. The contrast is a reminder that championship seasons still contain forgettable afternoons.                                                                              |
| 2025 | The morning papers carried Will Smith's latest pinch-hit magic: his walk-off homer beat Arizona 5-4 and became the fourth pinch-hit walk-off home run of his career, second-most in MLB history.                                                                       |

Dodger lore: the Brooklyn Sym-Phonies

Beginning in the late 1930s, a gloriously off-key band of Brooklyn fans brought homemade music and neighborhood mischief to Ebbets Field. The Sym-Phonies became part of the atmosphere that made the Brooklyn Dodgers feel less like a distant institution and more like a community gathering. Their deliberately imperfect performances were the point: loud, loyal and unmistakably Brooklyn.

Rivalry oddity

The longest winning streak in the matchup belongs to the Dodgers: **14 consecutive victories** from June 5 through August 22, 1951. St. Louis' longest streak is 10, spanning July 30, 2005 through May 14, 2007.

# Pregame Scorecard

## Lineups

Official starting lineups were not populated in the public feed when this packet was assembled. Use this page as a quick handwritten game card once lineups post.

| # | ST. LOUIS | POS | # | LOS ANGELES | POS |
|---|-----------|-----|---|-------------|-----|
| 1 |           |     | 1 |             |     |
| 2 |           |     | 2 |             |     |
| 3 |           |     | 3 |             |     |
| 4 |           |     | 4 |             |     |
| 5 |           |     | 5 |             |     |
| 6 |           |     | 6 |             |     |
| 7 |           |     | 7 |             |     |
| 8 |           |     | 8 |             |     |
| 9 |           |     | 9 |             |     |

## Your three things to track

|   |                                                        |
|---|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | McGreevy traffic: LA baserunners through three innings |
| 2 | Will Smith: first plate appearance and catcher rhythm  |
| 3 | Lauer: home runs allowed / clean innings               |

## Trivia answers

|   |                                                                                                                               |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Chris Taylor. His two-run homer off Alex Reyes gave LA a 3-1 walk-off win in the 2021 NL Wild Card Game.                      |
| 2 | 1884. The first meeting came on May 29 in Brooklyn.                                                                           |
| 3 | Ozzie Smith. The former Dodger hit the first left-handed home run of his career to win Game 5 of the 1985 NLCS for St. Louis. |

## Sources & preparation note

MLB.com: Dodgers probable pitchers, standings, starting-lineup feed, player pages, schedule, injuries and transactions. • ESPN: Cardinals-Dodgers game matchup and team statistical comparison. • Reuters: Dodgers roster activations; Ohtani health update; Dodgers-Tigers recap. • True Blue LA: August review, homestand preview and roster context. • Baseball-Reference, MLB postseason records and historical series summaries for rivalry and September 1 notes. • Weather forecast retrieved for Los Angeles on September 1, 2026.

Statistics are current through games of August 30, 2026 unless a source reflected a later update. This is an independent fan publication and is not produced by or affiliated with the Los Angeles Dodgers, Major League Baseball or the St. Louis Cardinals.

# THE RAVINE READER SCORECARD

Keep the game your way. Pencil recommended.

| TEAM        | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | R | H | E |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|
| ST. LOUIS   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |
| LOS ANGELES |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |

## ST. LOUIS BATTING

| # | BATTER | POS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|--------|-----|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 |        |     | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |
| 2 |        |     | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |
| 3 |        |     | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |
| 4 |        |     | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |
| 5 |        |     | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |
| 6 |        |     | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |
| 7 |        |     | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |
| 8 |        |     | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |
| 9 |        |     | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |

## LOS ANGELES BATTING

| # | BATTER | POS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|--------|-----|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 |        |     | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |
| 2 |        |     | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |
| 3 |        |     | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |
| 4 |        |     | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |
| 5 |        |     | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |
| 6 |        |     | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |
| 7 |        |     | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |
| 8 |        |     | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |
| 9 |        |     | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ | ◇ |

### HOW TO KEEP SCORE

1. Write each batter in order. 2. Record the result in that plate-appearance box. 3. Darken each base reached; fill the diamond when a run scores.

Common shorthand: 1B single | 2B double | 3B triple | HR home run | BB walk | K strikeout | F flyout | L lineout | DP double play

Position numbers: 1 pitcher · 2 catcher · 3 first base · 4 second base · 5 third base · 6 shortstop · 7 left field · 8 center field · 9 right field