

BREAKFAST BASEBALL: DODGERS AT REDS

Thursday, September 17, 2026 | 9:40 AM PT | Great American Ball Park | SportsNet LA

MORNING BRIEF

Wake up, pour the coffee and find the remote. The Dodgers close the Cincinnati series with a West Coast breakfast game and a chance to clinch the NL West. Los Angeles enters 92-60 with a magic number of one after Cincinnati spoiled Wednesday's clinch attempt, 6-2. The Dodgers still own a 2-1 edge in this four-game set and a 5-1 advantage in the season series.

PROBABLE PITCHERS

DODGERS - JUSTIN WROBLESKI (LHP)	REDS - BRADY SINGER (RHP)
11-5 3.78 ERA 111 K	6-14 5.38 ERA 125 K
133.1 IP 1.16 WHIP	150.2 IP 1.51 WHIP

Wroblewski: He has bounced between the rotation and relief work this month; his most recent appearance was two scoreless relief innings in Miami. **Singer:** Cincinnati's right-hander has been hit hard lately, carrying a 9.00 ERA over his last five starts. He allowed eight runs in four innings his last time out against Milwaukee.

FIVE THINGS TO WATCH

- 1. Clinch with brunch.** The division magic number is one: a Dodgers win or a Padres loss locks up the NL West.
- 2. A very different Dodger lineup.** Mookie Betts and Will Smith get the morning off. Tommy Edman leads off, Freddie Freeman hits second, and Max Muncy is back in the middle of the order.
- 3. De Paula gets another look.** Josue De Paula bats sixth as the DH. The 21-year-old gives the bottom half of the lineup a little mystery and a lot of upside.
- 4. Make Singer work.** Singer has struggled with both traffic and the long ball recently. This is a morning to avoid helping him with quick outs.
- 5. Keep Elly in the yard.** Elly De La Cruz homered Wednesday and now owns 28 HR with an .885 OPS. He remains the Cincinnati bat capable of changing the game in one swing.

The Ravine Reader

ENJOY IT, THEN GO ABOUT YOUR DAY.

OFFICIAL LINEUPS

LOS ANGELES DODGERS								
#	BATTER	POS	B	HR	RBI	SB	AVG	OPS
1	Tommy Edman	CF	S	6	35	6	.250	.711
2	Freddie Freeman	1B	L	16	66	7	.293	.814
3	Kyle Tucker	RF	L	15	66	11	.226	.700
4	Teoscar Hernandez	LF	R	15	62	5	.263	.760
5	Max Muncy	3B	L	28	71	2	.249	.835
6	Josue De Paula	DH	L	1	3	1	.143	.829
7	Hunter Feduccia	C	L	3	19	0	.236	.657
8	Alex Freeland	2B	S	4	21	4	.235	.651
9	Miguel Rojas	SS	R	3	20	1	.267	.693

CINCINNATI REDS								
#	BATTER	POS	B	HR	RBI	SB	AVG	OPS
1	Dane Myers	CF	R	7	26	10	.265	.736
2	Elly De La Cruz	DH	S	28	74	26	.286	.885
3	Sal Stewart	1B	R	31	108	15	.269	.810
4	Tyler Stephenson	C	R	15	53	0	.247	.748
5	Juan Brito	2B	S	2	12	1	.265	.729
6	Matt McLain	SS	R	15	39	18	.187	.621
7	H. Rodriguez	RF	L	5	12	0	.224	.653
8	Ke'Bryan Hayes	3B	R	5	8	1	.146	.439
9	TJ Friedl	LF	L	4	13	5	.165	.500

LINEUP NOTES

Lefty-heavy morning: Freeman, Tucker, Muncy, De Paula and Feduccia all get the platoon advantage against Singer, with switch-hitters Edman and Freeland joining them. Only Teoscar Hernandez and Miguel Rojas bat strictly right-handed.

Freeman vs. Singer: Freddie enters 2-for-8 with a home run in the matchup. He moves into the No. 2 hole today.

Fresh legs: Betts and Smith sit after the quick turnaround. Rojas handles shortstop, Feduccia catches, and De Paula slots in at DH.

BREAKFAST BASEBALL CHECKLIST

Coffee: mandatory. | First-pitch snack: strongly encouraged. | Productive work before 9:40: technically possible. | Clinching celebration before lunch: available.

The Ravine Reader

ENJOY IT, THEN GO ABOUT YOUR DAY.

LAST TIME OUT - REDS 6, DODGERS 2

Cincinnati finally solved the Dodgers on Wednesday. Blake Snell left after one inning with left groin tightness, and the Reds took advantage of the unexpected bullpen game. Elly De La Cruz hit his 28th homer, Dane Myers also went deep, and Cincinnati handed Los Angeles its first loss to the Reds this season. The defeat left the Dodgers at 92-60 and kept the division magic number at one.

QUICK HITS

Series: Dodgers lead 2-1. **Season series:** Dodgers lead 5-1. **Road record:** 45-32. **Reds at home:** 37-40.

Wroblewski's assignment: Give the Dodgers length. With Snell exiting after only one inning Wednesday, an efficient start would be particularly welcome.

Dodger damage point: Eight hits has been a useful threshold - Los Angeles is 65-23 in games with at least eight hits this season.

Cincinnati danger sign: The Reds are 35-19 when they hit at least two home runs. Keeping the ball in the park matters at Great American Ball Park.

READER TRIVIA

1. Which Cincinnati ballpark hosted Major League Baseball's first night game in 1935?
2. Which Reds pitcher threw back-to-back no-hitters in 1938, with the second coming against Brooklyn?
3. What is the Dodgers' magic number to clinch the NL West entering today's game?

RANDOM DODGER OF THE DAY - PEDRO GUERRERO

Pedro Guerrero (1978-88) could hit just about anything and play just about anywhere. A cornerstone of the early-1980s Dodgers, Guerrero shared 1981 World Series MVP honors after batting .333 with two home runs and seven RBI in the six-game victory over the Yankees. His best offensive season came in 1985, when he hit .320 with 33 home runs and finished third in NL MVP voting.

He also supplied one of the great Tommy Lasorda-era personalities: dangerous bat, adventurous defense, and absolutely no shortage of stories. For a sleepy Thursday morning getaway game, Pedro feels right - grab a bat and make something happen.

The Ravine Reader

ENJOY IT, THEN GO ABOUT YOUR DAY.

CINCINNATI NOTEBOOK

The Crosley Terrace: Crosley Field's famous sloped outfield was part ballpark feature, part obstacle course. Outfielders had to learn to run uphill while tracking a fly ball - a uniquely Cincinnati problem.

Lights on: Crosley Field hosted MLB's first night game on May 24, 1935, when Cincinnati beat Philadelphia 2-1.

Vander Meer's impossible encore: Johnny Vander Meer threw consecutive no-hitters in June 1938. The second came against the Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field - which was hosting its first night game.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Crosley Field. 2. Johnny Vander Meer. 3. One.

SCORECARD

TEAM	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
DODGERS												
REDS												

SCORING / NOTES

RAVINE READER MORNING MISSION: Finish one cup of coffee before the first Dodgers run. Finish two before somebody in the group chat asks why a weekday baseball game starts at 9:40 in the morning.