



ENJOY IT, THEN GO ABOUT YOUR DAY.

BACK HOME WITH HARDWARE

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS (64-89) AT LOS ANGELES DODGERS (93-60)
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2026 | 7:15 PM PT | DODGER STADIUM | APPLE TV

TONIGHT AT A GLANCE

The Dodgers are home again, the NL West has already been secured, and naturally the first visitors waiting for the newly crowned champs are the Giants. Yesterday was champagne with brunch. Tonight is back to work - with October positioning, a final homestand, and six remaining games against San Francisco still on the calendar.

GIANTS	DODGERS
Cesar Perdomo LHP 0-1 3.68 ERA 11 K	Tyler Glasnow RHP 4-1 3.50 ERA 77 K

FIVE THINGS TO WATCH

- Glasnow's command check.** His last two starts featured seven walks and eight runs allowed. San Francisco owns baseball's lowest walk rate, so this is a useful October tune-up: make them earn their traffic.
- Keep Tucker cooking.** Kyle Tucker is 12-for-29 with four homers over his last eight games, capped by yesterday's four-hit division clincher.
- Champagne hangover?** The division is won, but the Dodgers still have seeding and a potential first-round bye to chase. Celebrate Thursday; compete Friday.
- A very young Giants lineup.** San Francisco is giving September at-bats to a collection of young players. Bryce Eldridge remains one of the names worth watching.
- Familiar enemy, unfinished schedule.** These clubs still have six head-to-head games remaining - three in Los Angeles now and three in San Francisco to close the regular season.

RAVINE READER QUESTION: Can the Dodgers turn yesterday's clinch into the beginning of an October ramp-up instead of the end of the regular-season mission?



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OFFICIAL LINEUPS

DODGERS	PLAYER	POS	B
1	Mookie Betts	SS	R
2	Will Smith	C	R
3	Teoscar Hernandez	LF	R
4	Freddie Freeman	1B	L
5	Miguel Rojas	2B	R
6	Kyle Tucker	RF	L
7	Kike Hernandez	3B	R
8	Alex Call	CF	R
9	Josue De Paula	DH	L

GIANTS	PLAYER	POS	B
1	Drew Gilbert	CF	L
2	Bryce Eldridge	1B	L
3	Jonah Cox	2B	R
4	Jung Hoo Lee	RF	L
5	Shay Whitcomb	3B	R
6	Turner Hill	LF	L
7	Scott Bandura	DH	L
8	Drew Cavanaugh	C	L
9	Christian Koss	SS	R

QUICK HITS BELOW THE LINEUPS

Right-handed traffic: With lefty Cesar Perdomo starting for San Francisco, Dave Roberts stacks Betts, Smith and Teoscar Hernandez in the first three spots.

De Paula again: Josue De Paula gets another DH start after driving in a run during Thursday's clincher in Cincinnati.

Tucker at No. 6: The hottest Dodger enters from the lower half of the order, giving Los Angeles a dangerous second wave behind Freeman and Rojas.



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WHO'S HOT / WHO'S NOT

WHO'S HOT

KYLE TUCKER - DODGERS

12-for-29 with four home runs over his last eight games. Thursday's clincher: 4-for-5, HR, two doubles, three RBI. This is exactly when you want the bat accelerating.

TEOSCAR HERNANDEZ - DODGERS

The recent contact-quality indicators have been moving in the right direction, and tonight he gets the platoon advantage against Perdomo. A good spot to keep building toward October.

DREW GILBERT - GIANTS

Gilbert supplied a late go-ahead homer in San Francisco's Wednesday win in St. Louis and gets the leadoff assignment tonight.

WHO'S NOT

JUNG HOO LEE - GIANTS

Lee enters the series in a recent cold stretch. The Giants still slot him fourth tonight, making him an important bat for Glasnow to keep quiet.

TYLER GLASNOW - COMMAND

Not a 'cold player' so much as a cold category: seven walks over his last two starts. Tonight's mission is simple - get back in the zone and make a low-walk Giants lineup swing its way aboard.

Permanent feature alert: Who's Hot / Who's Not is back in the Reader rotation. September is too important for us not to know who's arriving at the ballpark with a lit match - and who's carrying an ice bucket.



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MUTUALLY ASSURED DESTRUCTION

A DODGERS-GIANTS TRADITION

Some rivalries are built on championships. Some are built on geography. Dodgers-Giants occasionally operates on a simpler principle:

IF WE CAN'T HAVE IT, YOU CAN'T EITHER.

1982 - GIANTS TO DODGERS

The Giants entered the final weekend still alive in a three-team NL West fight with Los Angeles and Atlanta. The Dodgers won the first two games and eliminated San Francisco. So, naturally, the Giants spent Game 162 returning the favor.

Joe Morgan hit a go-ahead three-run homer in the seventh inning, San Francisco won 5-3, and the Dodgers were eliminated. Atlanta took the division by one game.

1993 - DODGERS RETURN THE FAVOR

Eleven years later, the Giants arrived at the final day tied with Atlanta atop the NL West at **103-58**. There was no Wild Card safety net. Win the division or go home.

The Dodgers entered at 80-81 and had no postseason destination of their own. Their final act of 1993 was therefore wonderfully petty: **Los Angeles beat San Francisco 12-1**. The Giants finished with 103 wins and zero playoff games.

THE RAVINE READER VERDICT:

Some rivalries are about beating the other guy. Dodgers-Giants is occasionally about making sure the other guy doesn't get to have nice things.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We're saving the 1997 Brian Johnson game for another day. With six Giants games left, there is no reason to eat the entire rivalry buffet on night one.



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RANDOM DODGER OF THE DAY

BRETT BUTLER

THE RARE MAN WHO CROSSED THE RIVALRY

Brett Butler spent 1988-90 with the Giants before joining the Dodgers in 1991. He became one of the quintessential leadoff hitters of his era: contact, speed, bunting, walks, stolen bases and the general ability to make a pitcher feel mildly annoyed for three straight hours.

Across a 17-year major-league career, Butler collected more than 2,300 hits, scored more than 1,300 runs and stole 558 bases. He was also one of baseball's great bunters, credited with 245 career bunt hits after the statistic began being tracked.

THE 1996 COMEBACK

Butler's best story had very little to do with statistics. While playing for the Dodgers in 1996, he was diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma of the tonsils. He underwent surgery and treatment - and returned to the field at Dodger Stadium roughly four months after surgery.

RAVINE READER SCOUTING REPORT:

Played baseball like a mosquito at a backyard barbecue. You knew exactly what he wanted to do, and somehow you still couldn't stop him.

Why tonight? Because a former Giant becoming a beloved Dodger is exactly the kind of cross-rivalry weirdness this series deserves.

No player photograph included by design.



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RIVALRY NOTEBOOK

READER TRIVIA

QUESTION: The Dodgers and Giants have twice finished the regular season tied atop the standings, requiring a three-game playoff series to decide the pennant or division. What two seasons were they?

TONIGHT'S LITTLE THINGS

Final homestand: The Dodgers return from Cincinnati as division champions and begin their last regular-season homestand.

Still something to chase: The division is settled, but postseason seeding and a first-round bye remain meaningful over the final nine games.

Six rounds left: LA and San Francisco meet three times this weekend and again for three games in San Francisco to close the regular season.

Apple night: Tonight's game is the Dodgers' final exclusive national TV broadcast of the 2026 regular season.

TRIVIA ANSWER

1951 and 1962. Both races required three-game playoff series between the Dodgers and Giants.

TONIGHT'S READER MISSION:

Enjoy the hardware. Boo the Giants. Check Glasnow's strike percentage. Keep one eye on Tucker. And remember: clinching the division does not excuse losing to San Francisco.



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KEEP SCORE WITH THE READER

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

GAME NOTES

BACK HOME WITH HARDWARE.

NL West champs yesterday. Giants tonight. October soon.