

The Ravine Reader

ENJOY IT, THEN GO ABOUT YOUR DAY.

SATURDAY NIGHT SKUBAL

GIANTS AT DODGERS | 6:10 PM PT | DODGER STADIUM | SPORTSNET LA

TONIGHT AT A GLANCE

The division is clinched, the bats are awake, and the Giants are still in town. Los Angeles enters Saturday at **94-60** after Friday's 8-2 win, having won **12 of its last 15**. Tonight brings a premium pitching matchup: **Tarik Skubal** makes his final scheduled regular-season home start against **Logan Webb**.

	GIANTS	DODGERS
STARTER	Logan Webb (RHP)	Tarik Skubal (LHP)
RECORD	8-9	10-7
ERA	4.31	2.70
2026 K	-	173
RECENT NOTE	Rough last five starts	7 scoreless IP last start

FIVE THINGS TO WATCH

- Skubal's October tune-up.** Since joining Los Angeles, Skubal has a 2.52 ERA over 50 innings with 57 strikeouts against 11 walks. This is his last scheduled Dodger Stadium start before the postseason.
- Mookie is officially cooking.** Betts is hitting .356 in September with six homers and 18 RBI after Friday's two-homer night.
- Tucker keeps the heater going.** Kyle has homered in back-to-back games and has five in his last nine.
- The kids keep getting real at-bats.** Josue De Paula drove in the go-ahead run Friday and has looked very comfortable in his first taste of September baseball.
- Beat the Giants anyway.** Clinching the division does not create an exemption from this particular civic responsibility.

READER MISSION: Watch Skubal's fastball command. Keep one eye on Mookie and Tucker. Appreciate the weird history. Boo the Giants responsibly.



OFFICIAL LINEUPS

SAN FRANCISCO	POS	LOS ANGELES	POS
1. Jonah Cox	CF	1. Tommy Edman	2B
2. Bryce Eldridge	1B	2. Freddie Freeman	1B
3. Shay Whitcomb	3B	3. Mookie Betts	SS
4. Osleivis Basabe	2B	4. Max Muncy	3B
5. Turner Hill	LF	5. Teoscar Hernandez	LF
6. Jung Hoo Lee	RF	6. Kyle Tucker	RF
7. Andrew Knizner	C	7. Will Smith	C
8. Grant McCray	OF	8. Josue De Paula	DH
9. Christian Koss	SS	9. Alex Call	CF

QUICK HITS BELOW THE LINEUPS

Lefty problem for San Francisco: Skubal faces a Giants order with several right-handed bats stacked early. Jonah Cox has been especially productive against left-handed pitching recently.

Dodger shape: Tommy Edman jumps to the top, Freddie Freeman hits second, and red-hot Mookie Betts slots third. Max Muncy and Teoscar Hernandez sit between Betts and Tucker, giving the middle of the order plenty of damage potential.

Kid watch: De Paula gets another start after going 2-for-3 with a walk and the go-ahead double Friday.

STARTING PITCHERS: Tarik Skubal (10-7, 2.70 ERA) vs. Logan Webb (8-9, 4.31 ERA). First pitch: 6:10 PM PT.

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WHO'S HOT / WHO'S NOT

WHO'S HOT

Mookie Betts: 21-for-59 (.356) in September with six homers and 18 RBI. Friday: 3-for-4, two homers, three RBI. Vintage Mookie has entered the chat.

Kyle Tucker: Five homers in his last nine games. After a difficult August, his September has turned into exactly the kind of late-season surge the Dodgers hoped for.

Josue De Paula: Three hits and two RBI over his last three games, including Friday's go-ahead double. The at-bats are beginning to look less like a cameo and more like an October audition.

WHO'S NOT

Logan Webb's recent run prevention: Webb enters at 8-9 with a 4.31 ERA, and one current preview has him carrying a 9.55 ERA across his last five starts. The Dodgers would be delighted if that trend survives another evening.

LAST NIGHT: THE EIGHTH INNING GOT SILLY

The Dodgers led 3-2 entering the eighth and then launched **four home runs in one inning**: Max Muncy, Kyle Tucker, Mookie Betts and Will Smith. Betts homered twice in the game; Tyler Glasnow struck out 10; De Paula drove in the go-ahead run. Final: **Dodgers 8, Giants 2**.

And because baseball has a sense of humor, it happened exactly 20 years after one of the strangest nights in Dodger Stadium history...

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BASEBALL IS WEIRD

THE 4+1 GAME - AND ITS 20-YEAR ECHO

SEPTEMBER 18, 2006

Dodger Stadium. Bottom of the ninth. Padres 9, Dodgers 5. San Diego was fighting Los Angeles for the NL West, and a four-run deficit against Trevor Hoffman was not exactly where you wanted to be.

THEN: Jeff Kent HR. J.D. Drew HR. Russell Martin HR. Marlon Anderson HR.

FOUR CONSECUTIVE HOME RUNS. 9-9.

San Diego scored again in the top of the 10th. Naturally, Nomar Garciaparra answered with a **two-run walk-off homer** in the bottom half. Dodgers 11, Padres 10. The game became known simply as **4+1**.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

Exactly twenty years later, the Dodgers celebrated the anniversary in the only reasonable fashion: **four home runs in the eighth inning** against the Giants. Muncy and Tucker went back-to-back. Later in the inning, Betts and Smith did it again.

Twenty years apart. Same ballpark. Four homers in an inning. Baseball is a deeply unserious sport.

EXTRA WEIRDNESS: The Padres' leadoff hitter in the original 4+1 Game? Current Dodgers manager **Dave Roberts**.

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RANDOM DODGER OF THE DAY

OLMEDO SAENZ - THE KILLER TOMATO

A PROFESSIONAL PINCH-HITTING MENACE

Some Random Dodgers are stars you forgot. Some are cult heroes. And some arrive carrying a nickname so magnificent that the rest of the biography almost feels optional.

Olmedo Saenz. The Killer Tomato.

Born in Chitre, Panama, Saenz built an 11-year major-league career with the White Sox, Athletics and Dodgers. He finished with a .263/.340/.465 career slash line, 73 home runs and 275 RBI. His MLB bio lists the nickname plainly: **Killer Tomato**.

Saenz spent four seasons with Los Angeles from 2004-07 and became the sort of bench bat fans loved having available late in a game: stocky, aggressive, and capable of turning one mistake into a very loud baseball.

KILLER TOMATO FILE:

Position: 1B / pinch hitter

Bats: Right

Born: Panama

Career: .263 AVG | .805 OPS | 73 HR

Dodger years: 2004-07

TOMATO HEINZ

The nickname ecosystem somehow got even better. During a 2005 trip to Pittsburgh, the Los Angeles Times noted that teammates also called him **Tomato Heinz**. Saenz responded by driving in a career-high six runs against the Pirates.

A Killer Tomato. In Heinz country. Six RBI. Sometimes the baseball gods aren't subtle.

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THE RAVINE READER SCOREBOARD

1,295 - 1,294

DODGERS LEAD GIANTS

17 ties - all-time series after Friday's win

SEASON 69

ROGER THE PEANUT GUY

Roger Owens started with the Dodgers in L.A. in 1958

24,991

DAYS SINCE L.A. GAME #1

April 18, 1958 - Dodgers 6, Giants 5 at the Coliseum

ROGER OWENS: ORIGINAL LOS ANGELES DODGER STADIUM CHARACTER

Roger Owens was 15 when he began vending during the Dodgers' **first season in Los Angeles in 1958**. He started with soft drinks at the Coliseum, worked his way to peanuts during that season, and began developing his famous trick throws in 1959. He followed the Dodgers to their new ballpark in 1962.

PEANUT GUY COUNTER: 1958 -> 2026 = **69 Dodger seasons** spanning the Coliseum and Dodger Stadium eras. That's not a concession vendor. That's infrastructure.

THIS DAY IN DODGER HISTORY - SEPTEMBER 19, 1964

Bottom of the **16th inning** against Philadelphia. Two outs. Willie Davis singles, steals second, moves to third on a wild pitch - and then decides everyone has been at the ballpark long enough.

HE STEALS HOME. DODGERS WIN 4-3.

The play tied the Major League record for the latest-inning steal of home and established a National League record. More than six decades later, it remains an appropriately chaotic piece of Dodger history.



RIVALRY NOTEBOOK

READER TRIVIA

1. Which four Dodgers hit consecutive ninth-inning home runs in the 2006 4+1 Game?
2. Who hit the walk-off homer in the 10th inning of that game?
3. Which current Dodger manager led off for San Diego that night?
4. What was Olmedo Saenz's wonderfully ridiculous nickname?

ANSWERS

1. Jeff Kent, J.D. Drew, Russell Martin and Marlon Anderson. 2. Nomar Garciaparra. 3. Dave Roberts. 4. The Killer Tomato.

SCORECARD

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

NOTES

SATURDAY NIGHT MISSION: Enjoy Skubal. Keep the bats hot. Add another notch to the all-time rivalry counter. And under no circumstances allow the Giants to have a pleasant weekend.