

The Ravine Reader

ENJOY IT, THEN GO ABOUT YOUR DAY.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HOSTILITIES RESUME.

Two hot teams. One old freeway. Plenty of recent scar tissue.

SAN DIEGO PADRES
87-69 | W5

TUESDAY, SEPT. 22
7:10 PM PT
Dodger Stadium
SNLA / TBS

LOS ANGELES DODGERS
96-60 | W4

TONIGHT'S PITCHING PLAN

PADRES - Michael King, RHP
12-9, 3.03 ERA, 154 K

DODGERS - Brock Stewart opens
Roki Sasaki expected for bulk innings

THE SETUP

The division is already blue, but this is not a sleepy final-week series. Los Angeles arrives on a four-game winning streak after sweeping San Francisco. San Diego has won five straight and is trying to finish off a postseason berth. The Dodgers have won seven of the first ten meetings this season.

Translation: nobody needs help finding a reason to care tonight.

FIVE THINGS TO WATCH

1. Roki's October audition. Sasaki is back from the injured list and is expected to work behind Stewart. Every clean inning can matter when the postseason bullpen is being assembled.
2. Pages is back. Andy Pages returns from a fractured hand and immediately starts in center field.
3. King vs. the middle of the order. Freeman-Smith-Muncy-Tucker gives the Dodgers four very different looks in succession.
4. Stop Tatis before the game starts moving. Fernando Tatis Jr. enters with 36 steals and a .301/.370/.566 career slash line at Dodger Stadium.
5. October temperature check. The Padres are one of baseball's hottest teams. This is a useful late-September stress test for a Dodger club already holding its ticket.

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OFFICIAL DODGERS LINEUP

#	DODGERS	POS
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OFFICIAL DODGERS LINEUP

#	DODGERS	POS
1	Mookie Betts	SS
2	Freddie Freeman	1B
3	Will Smith	C
4	Max Muncy	3B
5	Kyle Tucker	RF
6	Teoscar Hernandez	LF
7	Josue De Paula	DH
8	Andy Pages	CF
9	Tommy Edman	2B

SAN DIEGO PADRES LINEUP

#	PADRES	POS	B	AVG	OPS
1	Fernando Tatis Jr.	RF	R	.285	.823
2	D. Harris	LF	L	.306	.759
3	Manny Machado	3B	R	.219	.713
4	Ty France	1B	R	.301	.885
5	Jackson Merrill	CF	L	.255	.749
6	Austin Hays	DH	R	.267	.687
7	Xander Bogaerts	SS	R	.229	.667
8	Luis Campusano	C	R	.263	.802
9	Jake Cronenworth	2B	L	.229	.637

GAME NOTES & STORYLINES

Cronenworth comes off a two-homer, five-RBI Sunday. Pages returns to CF after a month away. Stewart opens with Sasaki expected behind him - an October bullpen audition as much as a traditional pitching plan.

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RANDOM DODGER OF THE DAY

STEVE GARVEY

From Dodger cornerstone to the author of San Diego's defining October swing.

Few players connect these two franchises more cleanly than Steve Garvey. He spent 14 seasons with the Dodgers, became the 1974 National League MVP, made eight All-Star teams in Los Angeles, won the 1981 World Series and played on four Dodger pennant winners.

Then came the strange part: after 1982, Garvey changed sides.

San Diego signed him before the 1983 season as a signal that the Padres intended to become something more than an expansion-era afterthought. One year later, they did exactly that.

In Game 4 of the 1984 NLCS, with San Diego facing elimination against Chicago, Garvey produced one of the greatest postseason games in franchise history. He drove in five runs and ended it with a two-run walk-off homer off Lee Smith, forcing a decisive Game 5. The Padres won the next day and reached the World Series for the first time.

Garvey was named NLCS MVP. San Diego eventually retired his No. 6.

CAN YOU BE A FRANCHISE LEGEND FOR TWO DIVISION RIVALS?

Garvey makes a pretty compelling case.

RAVINE READER VERDICT

A Dodger icon walked 120 miles south, became a Padre icon, and somehow gave both fan bases a perfectly legitimate reason to claim him. Baseball is weird.

QUICK GARVEY FILE

Dodgers	1969-1982
Padres	1983-1987
Dodger highlight	1974 NL MVP / 1981 World Series champion
Padre highlight	1984 NLCS MVP / Game 4 walk-off HR
Shared-history status	First ballot Ravine Reader material

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THE OTHER GWYNN

THE DODGERS DEVELOPED HIM. THE DODGERS RELEASED HIM. THEN HE COST THEM THE DIVISION.

September 29, 1996 - Dodger Stadium

The 1996 NL West came down to the final weekend at Dodger Stadium. Los Angeles entered with the advantage. San Diego needed a sweep.

They got one.

Tony Gwynn delivered a go-ahead two-run single in Game 161. Then the finale went scoreless into the 11th inning. San Diego put runners at the corners with nobody out, and Bruce Bochy called for a pinch hitter.

Chris Gwynn.

Tony's younger brother had been raised in the Dodgers organization and discarded by Los Angeles the previous offseason. In what became the final regular-season plate appearance of his major-league career, Chris drove a ball into deep right-center for a two-run double.

Padres 2. Dodgers 0.

Trevor Hoffman finished it for his third save of the weekend, and San Diego celebrated the NL West championship on the Dodger Stadium field.

THE LITTLE DETAIL THAT MAKES IT PERFECT

The obvious star in the family was Tony Gwynn. The man who decided the division was the other Gwynn - a former Dodger, in his final regular-season trip to the plate.

Some baseball stories are written by superstars. Some are written by the guy the other team let go.

READER FILE: THE WEEKEND

Situation	Dodgers and Padres decide the 1996 NL West at Chavez Ravine
San Diego's assignment	Sweep all three
Result	Padres win the division
Game 161	Tony Gwynn delivers the go-ahead two-run single
Game 162	Chris Gwynn delivers the 11th-inning two-run double
Closer	Trevor Hoffman saves all three games

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THIS DAY IN DODGER HISTORY - SEPTEMBER 22

FERNANDO WINS NO. 20

September 22, 1986

Fernando Valenzuela defeated the Houston Astros 9-2 and became the first native-born Mexican pitcher to win 20 games in a Major League season.

For a Dodgers-Padres night in Southern California, that's a pretty good date to remember one of the most important baseball figures the region has ever known.

BONUS SEPTEMBER 22

1954 - Karl Spooner's debut: Spooner shut out the New York Giants 3-0 and struck out 15, setting a Major League record for strikeouts by a pitcher in his debut.

1957 - Duke gets No. 40: Duke Snider hit his 40th homer, tying Ralph Kiner's National League record of five consecutive 40-homer seasons.

1976 - Sutton gets No. 20: Don Sutton beat the Giants 3-1 at Candlestick Park to become a 20-game winner.

RIVALRY IN FOUR ACTS

1982-84 - Garvey changes sides. A Dodger cornerstone signs with San Diego and helps deliver the Padres' first pennant.

1996 - The Gwynn weekend. San Diego sweeps the Dodgers at Chavez Ravine on the final weekend and steals the division.

2013 - Greinke vs. Quentin. Carlos Quentin charges Zack Greinke after being hit by a pitch; Greinke breaks his collarbone in the collision.

2020s - The rivalry gets teeth. Multiple postseason meetings, dugout tension and October eliminations turn geographic proximity into actual scar tissue.

TONIGHT'S SCOREBOARD

2026 season series	Dodgers lead 7-3
Padres recent run	13 wins in last 14 entering tonight
Padres	87-69 W5 postseason magic number: 2
Dodgers in September	14-5 entering tonight

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READER TRIVIA

Steve Garvey's famous 1984 NLCS walk-off helped San Diego reach its first World Series. But before joining the Padres, how many National League pennant-winning Dodger teams had Garvey played on?

A) Two B) Three C) Four D) Five

ANSWER

C) Four. Garvey was part of Dodger pennant winners in 1974, 1977, 1978 and 1981. He then helped San Diego win its first pennant in 1984.

TONIGHT'S READER MISSION

- [] Welcome Andy Pages back.
- [] One clean Roki Sasaki inning. Then ask for another.
- [] Keep Tatis off the bases long enough to enjoy dinner.
- [] Make Michael King work.
- [] No unnecessary ninth-inning heart palpitations.
- [] Win the freeway argument for one more night.

RAVINE READER PREGAME VERDICT

The division is clinched. The Padres are still playing for October position. Both teams are hot. One of them has to cool off.

Perfect. We were getting bored.

Southern California hostilities resume at 7:10.

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RAVINE READER SCORECARD

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

SCORING NOTES

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	

GAME NOTES / THINGS I WILL PRETEND I SAW COMING
