

The Ravine Reader

ENJOY IT, THEN GO ABOUT YOUR DAY.

WELCOME BACK, SHOHEI.

PADRES AT DODGERS | WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026 | 7:10 P.M. PT

GAME SNAPSHOT

San Diego Padres	87-70	Los Angeles Doc	L.A. Dodgers	97-60
Starter	Robbie Ray (LHP)	Starter	Yoshinobu Yamamoto (RHP)	
Pitcher line	13-8 3.60 ERA 138 K	Pitcher line	14-8 2.51 ERA 178 K	
Venue	Dodger Stadium	TV	SportsNet LA	

Tonight's frame: Los Angeles took the opener 7-0 and has won 11 straight at home. The Dodgers' magic number for a first-round bye is two; San Diego's magic number for a Wild Card berth is also two. The Dodgers enter one game behind Milwaukee for the NL's best record.

The headline inside the headline: Shohei Ohtani is back. He was activated from the injured list today after last playing Sept. 7 and will DH and bat second. He is expected to hit only for the remainder of the season.

PROBABLE PITCHERS

Yoshinobu Yamamoto: This is scheduled to be his final regular-season start. He has gone seven innings in each of his three September starts and owns a 1.79 ERA over his last seven outings. Against San Diego this season: 2-1, 3 ER in 20 IP, 22 K, 6 BB.

Robbie Ray: The former Giant has a 5.22 ERA in eight starts since joining San Diego. His last three starts have produced an 8.78 ERA, though he worked six innings and earned the win at Colorado last time out.

Reader thought: October is close enough to smell. Tonight looks a lot like a dress rehearsal.

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OFFICIAL LINEUPS

#	PADRES	POS
1	Fernando Tatis Jr.	RF
2	Dustin Harris	LF
3	Manny Machado	3B
4	Ty France	1B
5	Jackson Merrill	CF
6	Xander Bogaerts	SS
7	Jake Cronenworth	2B
8	Samad Taylor	DH
9	Ethan Salas	C

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

MATCHUP NOTES

Mookie stays atop the order. Betts is batting .373/.468/.746 in September. With Ray throwing left-handed, Dave Roberts keeps the red-hot right-handed bat in the leadoff spot and slides Ohtani into No. 2.

Betts vs. Ray: 4-for-12 with two home runs in the available career matchup data. Freddie Freeman is 7-for-24 (.292) against Ray with four RBI.

Pages, take two. Andy Pages returned from a broken hand in Tuesday's opener and reached base twice. Tonight he starts again in center field.

Kid behind the plate: Padres catcher Ethan Salas is only 20. Earlier this month he became the youngest catcher in MLB history with a multi-homer game.

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WHO'S HOT / WHO'S NOT

HOT - Mookie Betts	A .373/.468/.746 September entering tonight. The leadoff spot is his again against a lefty.
HOT - Yoshinobu Yamamoto	1.79 ERA over his last seven starts. Seven innings in each September start. This is ace behavior at exactly the right time.
HOT - Dodger Stadium	Eleven straight home wins. The building has been very hospitable lately - to one team.
NOT - Robbie Ray's recent ERA	8.78 over his last three starts. He did steady things with six innings at Coors last week, so don't assume easy pickings.

RANDOM DODGER: AL FERRARA

Dodger. Original Padre. Television actor. Naturally.

Al Ferrara was a Brooklyn-born outfielder who reached the Dodgers in 1963 and appeared on three Los Angeles World Series rosters (1963, 1965 and 1966). His best Dodger season came in 1967, when he hit .277 with 16 home runs.

Then came the twist. After an ankle injury wrecked his 1968 season, the Dodgers left Ferrara unprotected in the expansion draft. The brand-new San Diego Padres selected him on October 14, 1968. He became their regular left fielder and hit 27 homers across the Padres' first two seasons.

And because old baseball players apparently had side quests, Ferrara also appeared on *Gilligan's Island* and *Batman* while he was a Dodger.

Ravine Reader verdict: If your resume includes the Dodgers, the original Padres, three World Series rosters, Gilligan's Island and Batman, you have earned Random Dodger status.

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DODGERS-PADRES LORE: WHEN TOMMY MET BEVACQUA

The Dodgers-Padres rivalry was still young in 1982. Kurt Bevacqua helped give it some teeth.

In the second game of a June 30 doubleheader, Dodgers reliever Tom Niedenfuer hit Padres outfielder Joe Lefebvre in the helmet immediately after Broderick Perkins homered. Bevacqua charged out of the San Diego dugout and was ejected. Niedenfuer was later fined \$500.

Bevacqua then told reporters that the person who ordered the pitch should be fined too, directing a personal insult at Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda. Tommy was asked for a response. Tommy responded.

Lasorda denied ever ordering a pitcher to hit anyone and delivered the immortal sanitized punch line:

"Bevacqua couldn't hit water if he fell out of a boat."

The full audio was considerably less suitable for a family publication. The feud became marketing gold for San Diego and one of the earliest genuinely memorable episodes in the rivalry.

THE ALL-TIME SCOREBOARD

REGULAR SEASON THROUGH SEPT. 22, 2026	W	L	T	PCT
DODGERS VS. PADRES	540	434	1	.554
2026 SEASON SERIES	8	3	-	.727

Bonus absurdity: Los Angeles' largest win over San Diego remains a **19-0** demolition on June 28, 1969 - the Padres' inaugural season.

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THIS DAY IN DODGER HISTORY - SEPTEMBER 23, 1947

Jackie Robinson Day at Ebbets Field

Brooklyn held Jackie Robinson Day at Ebbets Field on September 23, 1947. Robinson's Dodger teammates gathered around him at home plate before the game.

Then the Dodgers went out and beat the New York Giants, 6-1. Brooklyn scored twice in the fourth and four more in the seventh. Joe Hatten earned his 17th win; Dan Bankhead recorded the save.

It was Robinson's rookie season, six months after he broke Major League Baseball's modern color barrier. The date deserves more than a footnote: it was a public celebration of a player whose first season had already changed baseball.

READER TRIVIA

Question: Yoshinobu Yamamoto has been excellent against San Diego this year. What was his line against the Padres on July 4?

Answer: Seven scoreless innings and 10 strikeouts in a 3-0 Dodgers win.

Bonus: Who ended Fernando Valenzuela's 41-inning earned-run-free streak to open the 1985 season? The San Diego Padres.

RAVINE READER MISSION

☐	Mookie reaches base before you settle into the couch.
☐	Shohei gets a welcome-back hit.
☐	Yamamoto gets through six with two runs or fewer.
☐	Someone mentions October before the fourth inning.
☐	A Padre makes you mutter something impolite.
☐	Dodgers make it 12 straight at home.

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TONIGHT'S WATCH LIST

- 1. Ohtani's timing.** Forget the box-score heroics for a minute. After more than two weeks out, watch the quality of his takes, how well he handles velocity and whether the swing looks free and comfortable.
- 2. Yamamoto's efficiency.** He leads the majors in innings per start and has been working deep into games. With October coming, another clean seven would be about as reassuring as it gets.
- 3. Make Ray work.** Ray has walked 26 hitters in 39 2/3 innings since joining San Diego. The Dodgers don't need to chase damage early; long at-bats can create it.
- 4. Tatis and Machado.** The Padres' stars went a combined 1-for-7 with five strikeouts in Tuesday's shutout. Yamamoto keeping the top of San Diego's order quiet again would go a long way.
- 5. The standings.** Los Angeles can move another step toward skipping the Wild Card round. San Diego is trying to punch its own October ticket. Nobody needs manufactured drama tonight.

FROM LAST NIGHT

Dodgers 7, Padres 0. Los Angeles scored six runs with two outs. Tommy Edman and Will Smith homered, and the Dodgers pushed their home winning streak to 11 games.

Tonight's job: do it again, preferably with fewer opportunities for San Diego to enjoy itself.

READER'S NOTE

The Ravine Reader is fan-made and unofficial. Stats and lineups were freshly checked before publication; baseball remains capable of changing a lineup five minutes after you hit 'publish.'

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KEEP SCORE

PADRES AT DODGERS | SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

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

SCORING / BIG PLAYS

PITCHING NOTES

READER GAME NOTES
