



WELCOME BACK TO THE WIND TUNNEL.

Dodgers at Giants | Friday, Sept. 25, 2026 | 7:15 PM PT | Oracle Park | SportsNet LA

GAME SNAPSHOT

LOS ANGELES DODGERS
97-62

SERIES OPENER
Final regular-season series

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS
65-94

TONIGHT'S PITCHING MATCHUP

DODGERS — **Tarik Skubal, LHP**: 11-7, 2.85 ERA, 176 K. His 10th start as a Dodger and final scheduled regular-season start.

GIANTS — **Yunior Marte, RHP**: 0-1, 4.66 ERA, 11 K. Last Friday at Dodger Stadium, L.A. scored six runs against him in 4 2/3 innings.

THE SETUP

Three games left, all against the oldest enemy on the schedule. The Dodgers arrive at 97-62 after dropping the final two games of the Padres series. San Francisco is 65-94, but eliminating meaningful stakes has never eliminated the pleasure of making a rival miserable.

Tonight also gives us an excuse to remember the old place down the road — **Candlestick Park**, where wind, fog, soggy dirt, flying debris and rivalry spite occasionally became part of the ground rules.

THE GIANTS HAVE A NEW BALLPARK. THE STORIES STILL SMELL LIKE CANDLESTICK.

FIVE THINGS TO WATCH

1. Skubal's October tune-up. **2.** Marte's rematch. **3.** Shohei leads off. **4.** Freeland gets second base. **5.** Start the final weekend with a rivalry win.

The Ravine Reader

ENJOY IT, THEN GO ABOUT YOUR DAY.

OFFICIAL DODGERS LINEUP

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

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS LINEUP

#	GIANTS	POS
1	Jonah Cox	CF
2	Christian Koss	SS
3	Shay Whitcomb	3B
4	Osleivis Basabe	2B
5	Brett Harris	1B
6	Andrew Knizner	C
7	Marcelo Mayer	DH
8	Grant McCray	LF
9	Victor Bericoto	RF

LINEUP NOTES

Pages jumps to No. 2 behind Ohtani, putting a right-handed bat between Shohei and Freeman.

Freeland at second: another late-season look at the rookie while Tommy Edman sits.

San Francisco's youth movement: Skubal sees a lineup heavy on young hitters and limited history against him.

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RANDOM DODGER OF THE DAY

LEN GABRIELSON

A Giant. An Angel for eleven games. Then somehow the Dodgers' home-run leader.

Len Gabrielson is premium Random Dodger material. The USC product reached the majors with Milwaukee, moved through Chicago and landed with the Giants in 1965. He hit **.301 in 88 games** for San Francisco that year and remained there through 1966.

After an offseason trade to the Angels, his Anaheim stay lasted only **11 games**. On May 10, 1967, the Dodgers acquired him for Johnny Werhas. Gabrielson then spent the rest of his major-league career in Los Angeles.

THE PERFECT 1968 STAT

In the Year of the Pitcher, Gabrielson hit **.270 with 10 home runs**. Ten homers doesn't sound like a power title — except it was enough to **lead the Dodgers**.

One of those ten came against his old Giants club on June 27 — off **Juan Marichal**.

QUICK GABRIELSON FILE

Giants: 1965-66

Dodgers: 1967-70

1968: .270, 10 HR, 35 RBI

Odd distinction: Led the Dodgers in homers with ten

Reader status: Exactly random enough.

TEN HOME RUNS. TEAM LEADER. BASEBALL IN 1968 WAS A DIFFERENT PLANET.

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CANDLESTICK FILES

THE NIGHT THE GIANTS WATERED THE DIRT.

1962 — *Maury Wills vs. a strategically created swamp*

Maury Wills was running wild in 1962. He would finish with a then-record **104 stolen bases** and win National League MVP. The Giants needed a plan.

Before an August Dodgers series at Candlestick, Giants manager **Alvin Dark** asked the grounds crew about slowing Wills. The area around first base — Wills' launch pad — was worked with wet peat moss, sand and water until the dirt became soft and boggy.

The Dodgers complained. Umpires ordered repairs. Grounds-crew recollections say the crew removed the mess, mixed in some real dirt ... and put the soggy mixture back.

The Giants swept the series. When the clubs later met in the three-game pennant tiebreaker, Candlestick's infield became an issue again; umpire Jocko Conlan ordered work on the soft areas before Game 1.

THE DODGERS ANSWERED WITH DUCKS

When San Francisco next came south, the Dodgers responded with theater: **10,000 duck calls** were distributed at Dodger Stadium — a noisy reminder of the swamp up north.

You can argue about whether wet dirt decided anything. You cannot argue with the pettiness.

THE GIANTS COULDN'T CATCH MAURY WILLS. SO THEY TRIED TO CATCH HIS CLEATS.

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MORE CANDLESTICK NONSENSE

THE BALLPARK WAS PART OF THE LINEUP.

Candlestick wasn't merely cold. It behaved like it had opinions.

The hovering hot-dog wrapper. Maury Wills remembered a wrapper getting caught above the infield and hanging around for innings. Popups could become adventures because the wind changed direction and intensity so quickly.

The famous Stu Miller balk. The legend says Miller was literally blown off the mound during the 1961 All-Star Game. The truth is less cartoonish: a gust disrupted him and he was called for a balk.

Twenty degrees colder. Players remembered dramatic temperature drops arriving at Candlestick from elsewhere around the Bay.

Juan Marichal owned the place. He went 122-58 at Candlestick, including a remarkable **21-4 against the Dodgers** there.

READER SIDEBAR

Former Dodger Reggie Smith once described wearing LOS ANGELES across your chest at Candlestick as essentially wearing a target. He knew literally: during one game he went into the stands after an abusive fan who had thrown a batting helmet at him.

Then there was the debris, dust, fog and whatever else the wind decided to contribute that evening.

IT WAS A TERRIBLE PLACE TO PLAY BASEBALL. WHICH IS WHY WE MISS IT.

The Ravine Reader

ENJOY IT, THEN GO ABOUT YOUR DAY.

THIS DAY IN DODGER HISTORY — SEPTEMBER 25

KOUFAX BREAKS FELLER'S RECORD.

September 25, 1965

Sandy Koufax shut out the St. Louis Cardinals **2-0** and broke Bob Feller's major-league record of 348 strikeouts in a season.

Koufax would finish 1965 with **382 strikeouts**, a 26-8 record and a 2.04 ERA, then throw two shutouts in the World Series — including Game 7 on two days' rest.

BONUS SEPTEMBER 25

1997 — Piazza's 195th hit. Mike Piazza collected three hits against Colorado to reach 195, setting the major-league record for hits in a season by a player whose normal position was catcher.

2008 — NL West champions. An Arizona afternoon loss mathematically clinched the Dodgers' 10th division title.

READER TRIVIA

How many home runs did Len Gabrielson hit when he led the 1968 Dodgers?

A) 10 B) 16 C) 21 D) 27

ANSWER: A) Ten. Welcome to the Year of the Pitcher.

TONIGHT'S READER MISSION

- ☐ Skubal looks October-ready.
- ☐ Ohtani reaches base twice.
- ☐ Someone mentions the wind even though Candlestick closed 26 years ago.
- ☐ Marte does not enjoy his rematch.
- ☐ One unnecessary Giants-Dodgers argument.
- ☐ Start the final weekend with a win.

The Ravine Reader

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RAVINE READER SCORECARD

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

SCORING NOTES

1	
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GAME NOTES / THINGS I WILL PRETEND I SAW COMING
