



161 GAMES LATER...

We laughed. We complained. Half the roster visited the IL. Somehow, October is waiting again.

THE 2026 DODGERS - THROUGH SEPTEMBER 26		
99-62 .615	NL WEST CHAMPIONS 5th straight division title	NL NO. 2 SEED First-round bye secured

THE SHORT VERSION

The Dodgers began 2026 as back-to-back World Series champions and spent the next six months discovering that defending a title is mostly an exercise in surviving the calendar.

The rotation was battered. The lineup lost stars for weeks and months at a time. The bullpen was rebuilt on the fly. Yet Los Angeles still won the NL West for the **13th time in 14 seasons**, reached the postseason for a **record-tying 14th consecutive year**, and earned a bye directly into the NLDS.

Through 161 games, the Dodgers are **99-62**. One game remains - and win No. 100 is sitting there for the taking.

THE REGULAR SEASON DID ITS JOB. NOW COMES THE PART EVERYONE REMEMBERS.

WHAT THIS ISSUE IS

Not a yearbook. Not an awards ballot. Just the Ravine Reader's attempt to remember how we got here before October rearranges our emotions.

The Ravine Reader

ENJOY IT, THEN GO ABOUT YOUR DAY.

THE SEASON IN 12 MOMENTS

HOW WE GOT HERE

MAR. 27	Ring night. Back-to-back championships celebrated before the home opener.
APR. 21	Shohei Ohtani reaches base in 53 straight games, tying Shawn Green for the longest streak by an L.A. Dodger.
APR. 25	Roki Sasaki unveils a new splitter and gives an injury-ravaged rotation another way forward.
MAY 19	Andy Pages wins an epic at-bat with a go-ahead sacrifice fly - one of the moments his breakout stopped feeling temporary.
JUN. 30	Dave Roberts reaches 1,000 managerial wins in just 1,606 games.
JUL. 6	The Dodgers somehow do not play an extra-inning game until July. Dalton Rushing finally ends the drought with the winning hit.
JUL. 19	Yoshinobu Yamamoto throws his first regular-season complete game - at Yankee Stadium, because subtlety is overrated.
AUG. 2	The Dodgers trade for Tarik Skubal. The October rotation suddenly looks unfair on paper.
AUG. 11-25	Blake Snell and Tyler Glasnow return from long IL absences. The theoretical rotation begins becoming an actual rotation.
SEP. 1	Will Smith returns after nearly three months on the IL.
SEP. 14-17	Playoff berth secured, then another NL West title.
SEP. 24	The Dodgers clinch the NL's No. 2 seed and a first-round bye.

If the season felt like it moved in waves, that's because it did: dominance, injury, reinforcement, another injury, a deadline ace, September recovery, then a bye.



THE LINEUP

THE NAMES CHANGED. THE RUNS KEPT COMING.

The Dodgers' offense spent the year absorbing injuries without losing its identity. Ohtani supplied another 30-homer season, Freeman remained the metronome, Muncy brought power, and Andy Pages made the leap from promising young outfielder to important October bat.

Ohtani: a 53-game on-base streak supplied one of the year's great running counters.

Freeman: the steady presence in a lineup that rarely stayed intact for long.

Pages: a breakout season and first All-Star selection changed the shape of the outfield.

Betts, Tucker and Muncy: different stretches, different injuries, same October expectation.



THE ARMS

BUILD THE ROTATION. BREAK THE ROTATION. BUILD IT AGAIN.

The defining pitching story was not one ace. It was the attempt to keep enough aces standing at the same time.

Yoshinobu Yamamoto provided the rotation's constant while the depth chart changed around him.

Tarik Skubal arrived at the deadline and immediately changed the October calculus.

Blake Snell and Tyler Glasnow returned during August, finally turning the theoretical super-rotation into something close to a real one.

The bullpen was less a fixed unit than a rolling casting call.



THE HOSPITAL WARD

PLEASE TAKE A NUMBER.

The 2026 injured-list tracker reads less like a transaction log and more like an airline departure board.

Position players who missed time: Mookie Betts, Tommy Edman, Will Smith, Teoscar Hernandez, Kike Hernandez, Andy Pages, Dalton Rushing and Shohei Ohtani.

Pitchers who missed time: Blake Snell, Tyler Glasnow, Edwin Diaz, Blake Treinen, Brock Stewart, Roki Sasaki, Evan Phillips and plenty more.

Will Smith's long absence made catcher a summer-long patchwork project. Even September brought another round of IL traffic.

RAVINE READER MEDICAL ADVICE: WRAP EVERYONE IN BUBBLE WRAP UNTIL OCTOBER 3.



THE WEIRD STUFF

YES, ALL OF THIS HAPPENED.

No extra innings until July 6. Baseball eventually remembered the rule existed.

Three straight Japanese-born starters. Yamamoto, Sasaki and Ohtani made consecutive starts from March 30-April 1.

Dave Roberts reached 1,000 wins. Another milestone in a tenure where October has become an annual appointment.

Josue De Paula arrived. One of the organization's most anticipated young bats finally reached Los Angeles.

The Dodgers spent six months trying to assemble the roster everyone imagined in March, and finally got most of it together just as the calendar ran out.



THE FIRST ANNUAL RAVINE READER AWARDS

HIGHLY SCIENTIFIC. COMPLETELY BINDING.

THE 'OH, HE'S REALLY DOING THIS' AWARD - Andy Pages. The breakout stopped feeling temporary.

THE METRONOME - Freddie Freeman. Every contender needs one.

THE PLEASE NEVER DO THAT AGAIN AWARD - The Injured List. No explanation necessary.

THE 'WAIT, WE GOT HIM TOO?' AWARD - Tarik Skubal. The deadline acquisition that made the rotation look ridiculous.

THE MOST DODGERS STAT - 14 straight postseasons. October baseball has somehow become routine in Los Angeles.

THE 20-MILE MARCH - 99 wins through 161 games. Not every week looked pretty. The destination never changed.



2026 BY THE NUMBERS

ONE GAME LEFT.

99-62	Record through Sept. 26
1	Regular-season game remaining
100	Wins with a victory in Game 162
14	Consecutive postseason appearances
13 of 14	NL West titles since 2013
5	Straight NL West titles
2	NL postseason seed

Tomorrow is Game 162. Win it, and the Dodgers put a clean 100-win bow on the regular season.



AND NOW NONE OF IT MATTERS.

WELCOME TO OCTOBER.

The Dodgers are locked into the **No. 2 seed in the National League** with a first-round bye. The regular season has delivered another division title, another October ticket and a little extra time for a battered roster to heal.

ONE MORE REGULAR-SEASON JOB

Game 162 remains. The Dodgers enter it at **99-62**, with win No. 100 available in the finale.

After the final out, we'll lock the final record, season totals and any last milestones before publishing the finished Season in Review.

162 games tell you who you are.

October tells you what everyone remembers.

ENJOY IT. THEN GO ABOUT YOUR DAY.