



EXECUTIVE PLAYOFF RESEARCH



MLB PLAYOFF REPORT

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2026

**Sale leads the strikeout file. Philadelphia has a split workload.
Two series await complete projections.**

4

WILD CARD OPENERS

2

MODELED GAMES

36

HITTER ROWS

First pitch: 2:00 PM ET | **Official plays:** 0

Research cutoff: September 28, 2026 | 5:20:41 PM ET



Night-before preview. Game 1 source projections only. Confirmed batting orders, current prices, final weather and roof decisions remain open.



OPENING-DAY FOCUS

Tomorrow's Top 3 Watchlist

Three statistical spotlights from your uploads. No official market selections or stakes.

01 CHRIS SALE

WATCH

PHI @ ATL | 2:00 PM ET

7.1 projected strikeouts

6.2 expected innings and 24.6 batters faced. Highest individual K mean in the supplied file.

Refresh the lineup, workload and posted K market before evaluating a price.

02 CAM SCHLITTLER

WATCH

BOS @ NYY | 8:00 PM ET

6.3 projected strikeouts

5.7 expected innings and 23.1 batters faced. Second-highest individual K mean in the file.

Boston hitter K modifiers are positive throughout the visible screenshot; these are not strikeout probabilities.

03 OZZIE ALBIES

CONDITIONAL

PHI @ ATL | 2:00 PM ET

RC +8% | XB +22%

Only positive RC adjustment among the 36 visible hitters. HR remains -15%.

The screenshot uses Luzardo. Painter and other relievers may change the matchup during the game.

Sources U2-U3. WATCH = research interest; CONDITIONAL = a material assumption is open. Lines, odds, event probabilities, EV and max prices: N/A - NOT VERIFIED. Units: NOT SUPPLIED.



THE OPENING ROUND

Wild Card schedule and bracket

September 29 Game 1 schedule. All times are Eastern; visiting teams are listed first.

TIME ET	GAME	VENUE	WATCH
2:00 PM	PHI @ ATL	Truist Park	NBC / Peacock
5:00 PM	CHW @ HOU	Daikin Park	Peacock / NBCSN
8:00 PM	BOS @ NYY	Yankee Stadium	NBC / Peacock
10:00 PM	CHC @ SD	Petco Park	Peacock / NBCSN

Division Series paths

LEAGUE	WILD CARD MATCHUP	WINNER FACES
NL	No. 6 Phillies at No. 3 Braves	No. 2 Dodgers
NL	No. 5 Cubs at No. 4 Padres	No. 1 Brewers
AL	No. 6 White Sox at No. 3 Astros	No. 2 Guardians
AL	No. 5 Red Sox at No. 4 Yankees	No. 1 Rays

Format: Best of three, entirely at the higher seed. No reseeding or automatic extra-inning runner.

Next games: Game 2 is September 30. Game 3, if needed, is October 1. Recheck later-game start times before publishing a follow-up.

Schedule/venues U1, cross-checked with S1. Seeds S2; Division Series paths derived using S9. CHW = Chicago White Sox. All times are subject to change.



WORKLOAD DRIVES THE FORECAST

Starting pitchers and bulk relief

Model means copied from the September 28 export. These are expected values, not guaranteed results.

PITCHER	OPP	INN	BF	K	R	H	HR	BB
Chris Sale	PHI	6.2	24.6	7.1	2.0	4.9	0.63	1.3
Cam Schlichtler	BOS	5.7	23.1	6.3	1.9	4.3	0.67	1.7
Payton Tolle	NYY	5.4	22.2	6.0	2.2	4.4	0.89	1.6
Jesus Luzardo	ATL	3.1	13.2	3.1	1.3	2.8	0.40	1.1
A. Painter (bk)	ATL	2.8	12.6	2.4	1.5	2.8	0.45	1.4

Luzardo and Painter are separate roles

Philadelphia is modeled for Luzardo at 3.1 innings, Painter (bk) at 2.8, then a 2.8-inning bullpen row. Do not combine their strikeouts into a Luzardo prop.

Derived scoring means

GAME	AWAY TEAM R	HOME TEAM R	COMBINED
PHI @ ATL	3.1	3.9	7.0
BOS @ NYN	3.2	3.6	6.8

Calculation: team runs = all opposing pitcher R rows summed once. Example: Atlanta = Luzardo 1.3 + Painter 1.5 + bullpen 1.1 = 3.9. No extra park adjustment is added.

Source U2; run sums calculated. INN is retained as a decimal model mean, not scoreboard notation (6.2 does not mean 6 2/3). These sums do not supply moneyline, total or run-line probabilities.



GAME 1 | 2:00 PM ET | TRUIST PARK

The Philadelphia workload question

Source scoring means: Philadelphia 3.1, Atlanta 3.9. Combined: 7.0. These are model averages.

Public pitching update

Sale faces Luzardo, whose shoulder return limits his workload; Painter may follow. [S3]

Why the hitter screen needs care

Every Atlanta row shown uses Luzardo. The pitching file also allocates substantial innings to Painter and the bullpen. Treat the hitter modifiers as the supplied opponent scenario until the provider refreshes them.

Selected matchup signals

HITTER	RC	HR	XB	K
O. Albies (ATL)	+8%	-15%	+22%	+23%
A. Bohm (PHI)	-12%	-35%	+3%	+42%
B. Stott (PHI)	-18%	-31%	-22%	+61%
J. Realmuto (PHI)	-30%	-42%	-16%	+67%

Research read: Albies has the strongest visible RC modifier. Sale's 7.1 K mean and the positive Phillies K adjustments make strikeout workload the central statistical focus. The size of an adjustment does not establish betting value.

U1-U3. Park model: runs -5%, HR -7%, singles +4%. Actual lineup, exact Luzardo pitch cap, reliever availability and current markets: N/A - NOT VERIFIED.



GAME 1 | 8:00 PM ET | YANKEE STADIUM

Two strong strikeout projections

Tolle: 6.0 K / 5.4 innings. Schlittler: 6.3 K / 5.7 innings. Their Game 1 roles align with announcements. [S5-S6]

3.2

BOS RUN MEAN

3.6

NYN RUN MEAN

-9%

PARK RUN FACTOR

Selected hitter modifiers

HITTER	RC	HR	XB	BB	K
P. Goldschmidt	-29%	-9%	+15%	-32%	+32%
B. Rice	-45%	-24%	-13%	-35%	+56%
A. Rutschman	-37%	-45%	-33%	+17%	+49%
R. Anthony	-46%	-48%	-31%	+17%	+31%
T. Story	-60%	-44%	-35%	+13%	+41%

Lineup mismatch to resolve

Judge's Game 1 status is unresolved. MLB projects Volpe; the screenshot includes Chisholm. [S4]

Research read: Goldschmidt has a positive XB adjustment despite negative RC and HR changes. Boston's positive walk modifiers for Rutschman, Anthony and Story deserve a separate look from its depressed hit and power modifiers.

U1-U3. Combined source run mean: 6.8. No total-market probability is available. A projected lineup is not a confirmed lineup; refresh the entire opposing lineup if personnel changes.



THE REST OF THE SLATE

Houston and San Diego

Schedule and environment coverage are available; both games lack usable pitching forecasts in this upload.

CHW @ HOU | 5:00 PM ET | Daikin Park

Source environment: HR **+7%**, doubles/triples **-11%**, singles **-4%**, runs **-4%**. Both team bullpen rows are all zero and no individual pitcher projection is supplied.

Public context: Houston may need a bullpen game. [S8]

Next input: both pitching plans, complete model rows and final roof status. First-pitch starters are N/A - NOT VERIFIED in this report.

CHC @ SD | 10:00 PM ET | Petco Park

Source environment: HR **+6%**, doubles/triples **-14%**, singles **-3%**, runs **-3%**. King is named in the file but every numeric field is blank; both bullpen rows are all zero.

Public context: Michael King is San Diego's Game 1 starter. [S7]

Next input: Cubs starter confirmation, King's quantitative forecast and both bullpen models.

No zero-score forecasts

The zero bullpen rows are incomplete-input flags. Neither game receives a scoring mean, pitcher-prop ranking or model-based side from this file.

Sources U1-U2, S7-S8. Hitter matchup rows for these four teams are not included in U3. Recheck starter announcements and refresh the incomplete projections before evaluating markets.



RUN ENVIRONMENT

Park and weather effects

Combined effects from the September 29 park export. These are model adjustments relative to baseline.

GAME	HR	2B / 3B	1B	RUNS
CHC @ SD	+6%	-14%	-3%	-3%
CHW @ HOU	+7%	-11%	-4%	-4%
PHI @ ATL	-7%	-10%	+4%	-5%
BOS @ NYY	-7%	-10%	-7%	-9%

Stadium vs weather components

VENUE	HR STAD.	HR WX	RUNS STAD.	RUNS WX
Petco Park	-4%	+10%	-7%	+4%
Daikin Park	+7%	0%	-4%	+0%
Truist Park	-4%	-3%	-4%	-1%
Yankee Stadium	+6%	-13%	-4%	-5%

Yankee Stadium has the largest run suppression

The -9% combined run effect is the most negative of the four parks. Its HR effect shifts from +6% stadium-only to -7% combined, with a -13% weather component.

Petco and Daikin: positive HR adjustments coexist with negative overall run adjustments. A park can favor one event type without favoring every form of scoring.

U1. Weather components are provider estimates, not verified temperature, wind or rain readings. A 0% weather component does not confirm a closed roof. Rounding can prevent exact component sums.



SUPPLIED HITTER MODIFIERS

Phillies and Braves

Atlanta rows face Luzardo; Philadelphia rows face Sale. Names follow the supplied screenshot.

TEAM / HITTER	RC	HR	XB	1B	BB	K
ATL O. Albies	+8%	-15%	+22%	+6%	-20%	+23%
ATL M. Dubon	-2%	-31%	+1%	+1%	-22%	+27%
ATL M. Harris II	-8%	-12%	-23%	-1%	-14%	+38%
ATL D. Baldwin	-11%	-22%	-10%	-8%	-21%	+34%
PHI A. Bohm	-12%	-35%	+3%	-5%	-35%	+42%
ATL H. Kim	-14%	-38%	-13%	-1%	-28%	+35%
PHI T. Turner	-15%	-37%	-11%	0%	-33%	+45%
PHI B. De La Cruz	-16%	-25%	-9%	-13%	-27%	+38%
ATL R. Acuna Jr.	-16%	-34%	-26%	-4%	-14%	+42%
PHI B. Stott	-18%	-31%	-22%	-6%	-25%	+61%
ATL M. Olson	-19%	-38%	-23%	-2%	-22%	+49%
PHI E. Sosa	-21%	-34%	-24%	-11%	-21%	+41%
ATL A. Riley	-24%	-30%	-18%	-17%	-24%	+42%
ATL S. Murphy	-25%	-35%	-22%	-15%	-25%	+46%
PHI K. Schwarber	-28%	-34%	-10%	-12%	-39%	+49%
PHI B. Harper	-29%	-42%	-19%	-10%	-40%	+55%
PHI D. Hill	-30%	-43%	-25%	-18%	-28%	+38%
PHI J. Realmuto	-30%	-42%	-16%	-15%	-42%	+67%

What stands out: Albies is the only positive RC row. Realmuto (+67%) and Stott (+61%) have the largest visible K increases in this matchup. Recheck Atlanta's values for the split pitching plan.

U3. "% Diff vs Typical" is selected; park-adjusted is checked. These are relative changes, not event probabilities. Column labels are preserved. This list is not a confirmed batting order.



SUPPLIED HITTER MODIFIERS

Red Sox and Yankees

Boston rows face Schlittler; New York rows face Tolle. All 18 rows have negative RC and HR changes.

TEAM / HITTER	RC	HR	XB	1B	BB	K
NY Yankees P. Goldschmidt	-29%	-9%	+15%	-13%	-32%	+32%
NY Yankees C. Bellinger	-32%	-23%	-9%	-5%	-28%	+42%
NY Yankees A. Rosario	-34%	-6%	-8%	-15%	-18%	+29%
Boston A. Rutschman	-37%	-45%	-33%	-26%	+17%	+49%
Boston C. Durbin	-40%	-50%	-39%	-18%	-3%	+49%
NY Yankees B. Rice	-45%	-24%	-13%	-14%	-35%	+56%
Boston N. Sogard	-45%	-24%	-40%	-26%	+8%	+48%
Boston R. Anthony	-46%	-48%	-31%	-29%	+17%	+31%
NY Yankees H. Ramos	-48%	-22%	-8%	-18%	-27%	+45%
Boston C. Rafaela	-49%	-36%	-32%	-21%	-10%	+46%
NY Yankees A. Wells	-51%	-21%	-9%	-16%	-36%	+46%
NY Yankees J. Chisholm	-51%	-27%	-3%	-19%	-35%	+43%
Boston W. Contreras	-51%	-30%	-43%	-27%	-4%	+42%
Boston W. Abreu	-51%	-31%	-35%	-30%	-12%	+50%
NY Yankees G. Lombard Jr.	-52%	-29%	-17%	-18%	-20%	+47%
NY Yankees S. Jones	-58%	-27%	-19%	-19%	-25%	+32%
Boston J. Duran	-59%	-45%	-41%	-25%	-11%	+38%
Boston T. Story	-60%	-44%	-35%	-26%	+13%	+41%

What stands out: Goldschmidt has XB +15%. Rutschman and Anthony show BB +17%; Story +13% and Sogard +8%. Negative HR modifiers do not rank absolute home-run probabilities.

U3. "% Diff vs Typical" is selected; park-adjusted is checked. These are relative changes, not event probabilities. Column labels are preserved. This list is not a confirmed batting order.



WHAT THE DATA SUPPORTS

Research status before Game 1

Official card and stake amounts: not supplied. Current prices and event probabilities remain unverified.

MARKET	AVAILABLE INPUT	STATUS / MISSING INPUT
Pitcher strikeouts	Five individual K means, including Painter bulk	WATCH / workload, line, odds, distribution
Pitcher outs	Decimal expected innings	CONDITIONAL / no outs distribution or pitch cap
Hits, 2+ hits, total bases	Relative hitter adjustments only	CONDITIONAL / plate appearances and event probability
Home runs	All 36 visible HR changes are negative	CONDITIONAL / no absolute HR probabilities
Walks, H+R+RBI	BB modifiers; no full event model	CONDITIONAL / event-specific probabilities
Game / team totals	PHI 3.1, ATL 3.9; BOS 3.2, NYY 3.6	CONDITIONAL / distribution, line and odds
Moneylines, run lines, series	No win or cover model supplied	N/A - NOT VERIFIED

Before a final release

Confirm batting orders and playoff rosters; resolve the Yankees lineup difference; verify Luzardo's workload and the other incomplete pitching plans; refresh stadium weather and Houston's roof decision; then obtain timestamped market quotes.

Pricing: DraftKings' public MLB page returned no usable target-date quotes. Last public-page review: September 28, 2026 | 5:20:41 PM ET. Lines, odds, fair prices, EV and max playable price are **N/A - NOT VERIFIED**. Units are **NOT SUPPLIED**.

U1-U3, S10. Your existing +6% EV standard cannot be evaluated from means or relative modifiers alone. WATCH / CONDITIONAL labels are research statuses; no selection is promoted to OFFICIAL.

**EVIDENCE REGISTER**

How this report was built

Public-source review completed September 28, 2026 | 5:20:41 PM ET. This is the review time, not each source's publication time.

U1 ParkFactors_2026-09-29 00_00_00.csv

Four dated game/venue rows. File times lack AM/PM and timezone; normalized with S1.

U2 StartingPitchers_Projections_2026-09-28.csv

14 rows: 9 populated forecasts, 4 zero bullpen placeholders and 1 blank King forecast. Filename date is Sep 28; no in-file date.

U3 IMG_6331.jpeg

36 visible hitters transcribed. Selected relative model tab, park-adjusted enabled. Device clock 5:13; date and timezone not shown.

Public links**S1 MLB: Wild Card game times**

September 29 opening schedule and television listing. Search excerpt reviewed.

S2 CBS Sports: postseason bracket

Seeds, first-round byes and bracket paths. Search excerpt reviewed.

S3 MLB: Phillies-Braves Game 1 FAQ

Pitching roles; search excerpt reviewed.

S4 MLB: Red Sox-Yankees Game 1 FAQ

Lineup and availability review.

S5 MLB: Schlittler named Game 1 starter

Yankees starter announcement. Search excerpt reviewed.

S6 MLB: Boston Wild Card rotation

Tolle named for the opener. Search excerpt reviewed.

S7 MLB: Cubs-Padres Game 1 preview

Michael King named for Game 1. Search excerpt reviewed.

S8 MLB: Astros postseason FAQ

Possible Houston bullpen game. Search excerpt reviewed.

S9 MLB: postseason format

Format reviewed.

S10 DraftKings: public MLB page

No usable September 29 market quotes returned. Public page reviewed.

Method: projections are copied, not re-estimated. Scoring means sum opposing R rows once. Missing values are not zeros. Relative adjustments are not percentage-point probabilities. No calibrated event distribution or new betting probability was created.

Quantitative analysis uses the three uploads listed above. Later injury, lineup, workload and market changes can make this preview stale. Public source links are clickable.