



2025 WORLD SERIES

GAME 1 Fri. Oct. 24 Rogers Centre, Toronto	GAME 2 Sat. Oct. 25 Rogers Centre, Toronto	GAME 3 Mon. Oct. 27 Dodger Stadium, L.A.	GAME 4 Tues., Oct. 28 Dodger Stadium, L.A.	GAME 5 Wed., Oct. 29 (if nec.) Dodger Stadium, L.A.	GAME 6 Fri., Oct. 31 (if nec.) Rogers Centre, Toronto	GAME 7 Sat., Nov. 1 (if nec.) Rogers Centre, Toronto
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All games start at 8 p.m. Eastern/7 p.m. Central • TV: FOX

GOLIATH?
DODGERS
ARE ALL-IN

L.A. offers no apologies
for spending on star power
— and their winning ways

By Bill Burt
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The Los Angeles Dodgers aren't shying away from the inevitable spotlight their sky-high \$350 million payroll brings—along with a \$150 million luxury tax hit. In fact, they're leaning into it.

"Before this season started, they said, 'The Dodgers are ruining baseball,'" quipped manager Dave Roberts after the team swept the Brewers in the NLCS. Then he delivered the punchline: "Let's get four more wins and really ruin baseball."

Goliath has spoken. The line is drawn.

The Dodgers make no apologies for being overwhelming favorites to not just beat the Toronto Blue Jays in the 2025 World Series—which opens Friday night at Rogers Centre—but to repeat as champions. It's a bold, public stance from Roberts, even with Toronto lacking the headline Hall of Fame talent (Vladimir Guerrero Jr. aside) to match the Dodgers' top three; Shohei Ohtani, Mookie Betts, and Freddie Freeman are a trio any team would envy. Still, the Blue Jays might boast deeper roster balance, and they'll host up to four games.

The Dodgers didn't break any rules building this superteam. They traded for Betts from Boston, signed Freeman away from Atlanta, and lured Ohtani from the Angels. Their rotation—Ohtani, Blake Snell (free agent), Tyler Glasnow (trade), and Yoshinobu Yamamoto (free agent)—was there for any team willing to pay the price.

Their spending is strategic, not just extravagant. Ohtani's \$700 million deal pays out "just" \$28.2 million annually, with \$68 million a year deferred until after he retires—a structure reportedly offset by lucrative Japanese business partnerships. The Betts trade succeeded by absorbing half of

David Price's contract, meaning the Dodgers surrendered minimal prospects. In the Glasnow deal, they parted with young righty Ryan Pepiot and outfielder Jonny DeLuca—a manageable price for another ace. Yamamoto's contract includes opt-outs for injury protection.

On the other side, the Blue Jays still wear the "mid-major" tag, but that underdog status doesn't quite hold up. Toronto is North America's fifth largest city, and the Rogers family is one of Canada's wealthiest. The Jays' \$240 million payroll ranks fifth in MLB, powered by Vladimir Guerrero Jr.'s \$500 million megadeal signed last winter.

The difference is in the details: Toronto's five biggest free-agent contracts average \$123 million apiece—names like George Springer, Kevin Gausman, Anthony Santander, Andres Gimenez, and Jose Berrios aren't quite household legends.

But on the 2025 ledger, the Dodgers have spent over \$100 million more on star power. In World Series terms, that's Goliath.

Bill Burt covers baseball for CNHI Boston.

DODGERS TOP SALARIES

Name	Age	MLB Yrs.	Acquired	Contract Status	2025
Tyler Glasnow	31	10	Traded	4 yrs/\$115M ('24-'27) and '28 team option	\$32.5M
Mookie Betts	32	12	Traded	12 yrs/\$365M ('21-32)	\$30.4M
Blake Snell	32	10	Free Agency	5 yrs/\$136.96M ('25-'29) and '30 team option	\$28.44M
Shohei Ohtani	30	8	Free Agency	10 yrs/\$282.17M ('24-'33)	\$28.22M
Freddie Freeman	35	16	Free Agency	6 yrs/\$162M ('22-'27)	\$27M
Teoscar Hernández	32	10	Free Agency	3 yrs/\$66M ('25-'27) and '28-'29 team/vesting option	\$17.67M
Michael Conforto	32	10	Free Agency	1 yr/\$17M ('25)	\$17M
Will Smith	30	7	Amateur Draft	10 yrs/\$140M ('24-'33)	\$16M
Tanner Scott	30	9	Free Agency	4 yrs/\$72M ('25-'28) and '29 vesting option	\$16M
Max Muncy	34	10	Free Agency	2 yrs/\$24M ('24-'25) and '26 team option	\$14.5M
Yoshinobu Yamamoto	26	2	Free Agency	12 yrs/\$325M ('24-'35)	\$14.17M
Kirby Yates	38	11	Free Agency	1 yr/\$13M ('25)	\$13M

BLUE JAYS TOP SALARIES

Name	Age	MLB Yrs.	Acquired	Contract Status	2025
Vladimir Guerrero Jr.	26	7	Amateur Free Agent	1 yr/\$28.5M ('25), 14 yrs/\$500M ('26-'39)	\$28.5M
George Springer	35	12	Free Agency	6 yrs/\$150M ('21-'26)	\$24.17M
Kevin Gausman	34	13	Free Agency	5 yrs/\$110M ('22-'26)	\$23M
Chris Bassitt	36	11	Free Agency	3 yrs/\$63M ('23-'25)	\$22M
José Berrios	31	10	Traded	7 yrs/\$131M ('22-'28)	\$18.71M
Bo Bichette	27	7	Amateur Draft	3 yrs/\$33.6M ('23-'25)	\$17.58M
Anthony Santander	30	9	Free Agency	5 yrs/\$92.5M ('25-'29) and '30 team option	\$16.2M
Max Scherzer	40	18	Free Agency	1 yr/\$15.5M ('25)	\$15.5M
Andrés Giménez	26	6	Traded	7 yrs/\$106.5M ('23-'29) and '30 team option	\$10.57M
Shane Bieber	30	8	Traded	1 yr/\$14M ('25) and '26 player option	\$10M



While the Dodgers lineup is laden with known stars, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. stands as the Blue Jays' most recognizable — and highest paid — player. Still, the Jays are counting on a deep roster to pull off the World Series upset.

PROBABLE LINEUPS

Key postseason 2025 stats



- Shohei Ohtani, DH: 4-for-7, 3 HRs, 1 3B
- Mookie Betts, SS: 0 HRs in 41 ABs
- Will Smith, C: 4-gm hitting streak, 6-15 (.400)
- Freddie Freeman, 1B: Last 7 games, .348, 3 HRs
- Tommy Edman, 2B: 5-for-15 (.333) last 5 games
- Teoscar Hernández, RF: 4 home runs
- Max Muncy, 3B: 1-for-12, 1 HR in NLCS
- Kiké Hernández, LF: 4 two-hit games
- Andy Pages, CF: 3-for-35 (0.86)



- George Springer, RF: 3 HRs in ALCS
- Davis Schneider, LF: 0-for-4 in ALCS
- Vladimir Guerrero Jr., 1B: .442, 6 HRs, 12 RBI
- Bo Bichette, DH: First appearance
- Alejandro Kirk, C: .222, 3 HRs, 7 RBI
- Ernie Clement, 3B: .429, 10 R, 2 K
- Daulton Varsho, CF: 4 multi-hit games, 8 RBI
- Isiah Kiner-Falefa, 2B: 5-for-15 (.333) last 4 games
- Andrés Giménez, SS: .263, 2 HRs, 8 RBI

BILL BURT'S PICK

Dodgers in five

The Toronto Blue Jays have one chance, really two, of not only making this a series, but finishing it off.

They must get the series back to Toronto for a Game 6. The Dodgers get the check mark in almost every facet of the game, not to mention World Series experience.

The Brewers were a lot like the Blue Jays; gritty, with a good pitching staff and even better bullpen. But the Dodgers made that series look easy in the four-game sweep.

The Blue Jays have a match for Shohei Ohtani at the plate in Vlad Guerrero Jr. They will need a herculean showing from Guerrero to have a chance, and they will continue to need their 1-through-9 batting order to keep the pressure on.

The Brewers led for one inning of one game. That's it. And they paid for it.

They have to score runs against Blake Snell and Ohtani, even two, to make this a series.

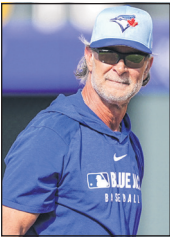
That being said, the Dodgers are not only loaded, but they are red-hot. The pressure is all on the Blue Jays in the early games of the series.

If the Blue Jays can win one game in Toronto and another in Los Angeles, bringing it back to Canada for Game 6, all bets are off.

That being said, it's going to be tough, too many Hall of Famers with pedigree.

Finally, Donny Baseball gets to Fall Classic

Don Mattingly won a batting title, was AL MVP, made six All-Star teams and won nine Gold Gloves over eight years with the Yankees. But what was missing was a World Series trip. Another Yankees dynasty started in 1996, a year after he retired.



Don Mattingly

He had some great years in various coaching and managing roles, but never a World Series trip ... until now, three years into his Blue Jays tenure as bench coach.

Rare repeat at stake

No team has won consecutive World Series since the Yankees took three in a row from 1998 to 2000. The gap of back-to-back champs is the longest in baseball history, topping the previous high between the 1977-78 Yankees and the 1992-93 Blue Jays.

"Realizing how hard it is to do last year, realizing how hard it was in '20 is special,"

WORLD SERIES NOTEBOOK

BY BILL BURT

said catcher Will Smith of the defending champion Dodgers. "Trying to get back-to-back is even more special."

Dodgers and Canada ties to history

Dodgers first baseman Freddie Freeman, in his fourth season wearing Dodger Blue, has dual American-Canadian citizenship. His parents were



both born in Canada. Toronto starting pitcher Max Scherzer was on the 2021 Dodgers team that lost to Atlanta in the NLCS. Hall of Famers Rickey Henderson and Fred McGriff also played for both teams, along with two-time All-Star Justin Turner.

NEPSAC MVPs shout-out

One of the best post-ALCS championship tweets came from a Corey Schneider from

Westborough, Mass., commenting after George Springer's big 3-run homer to give the Blue Jays the lead in the seventh inning of Game 7 of the ALCS

He tweeted: *Somewhere in New England tonight, there's an NEPSAC MVP plaque that reads: 2008: George Springer 2009: Corey Schneider One of us has made \$170M and is a World Series MVP. The other just searched "fun easy pumpkin carving ideas" and needs to foam roll. Life is a highway.*

Springer attended Avon Old Farms of the New England

Prep Schools Athletic Conference, aka NEPSAC, and was league MVP in 2008.

Schneider, who left Westborough High as a senior to play at Chesire Academy, copped the same honor a year later.

Before Ohtani was born

How long has it been since the Toronto Blue Jays won a World Series?

That was October of 1993, when Joe Carter hit a Game 6, three-run walkoff homer to beat the Phillies. Kayoko Ohtani was barely pregnant with a future son, Shohei Ohtani. That's how long.