

CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES GUIDE

MLB Playoffs 2026:

ALCS & NLCS Schedule, Matchups and Score Projections

Two pennants. Four contenders.

OCTOBER 11-20, 2026

Updated October 14, 2026

Confirmed results, remaining dates and original editorial projections.

YOUR OCTOBER READING GUIDE

Contents

The complete ALCS and NLCS guide, from the verified opening results to every remaining possible game.

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PUBLICATION SNAPSHOT

4 completed games + up to 10 remaining games.

All upcoming start times are Eastern Time (ET).



Full ALCS & NLCS schedule

At publication: the ALCS is tied 1-1, and Milwaukee leads the NLCS 2-0. Four games are complete. Five upcoming games are guaranteed; five more dates are conditional.

DATE	ROUND	MATCHUP	ET / FINAL RESULT	U.S. TV
OCT 11	NLCS 1	LAD @ MIL	MIL 2 - LAD 1	FOX / FS1
OCT 12	NLCS 2	LAD @ MIL	MIL 7 - LAD 4	FOX / FS1
OCT 12	ALCS 1	CLE @ TB	CLE 7 - TB 3	TBS
OCT 13	ALCS 2	CLE @ TB	TB 3 - CLE 1	TBS
OCT 14	NLCS 3	MIL @ LAD	8:00 PM ET	FS1
OCT 15	ALCS 3	TB @ CLE	6:00 PM ET	TBS
OCT 15	NLCS 4	MIL @ LAD	9:00 PM ET	FS1
OCT 16	ALCS 4	TB @ CLE	6:00 PM ET	TBS
OCT 16	NLCS 5*	MIL @ LAD	9:00 PM ET	FS1
OCT 17	ALCS 5	TB @ CLE	8:00 PM ET	TBS
OCT 18	NLCS 6*	LAD @ MIL	8:00 PM ET	FS1
OCT 19	ALCS 6*	CLE @ TB	5:00 PM ET	TBS
OCT 19	NLCS 7*	LAD @ MIL	8:00 PM ET	FOX / FS1
OCT 20	ALCS 7*	CLE @ TB	8:00 PM ET	TBS

* If necessary. ALCS Game 5 is guaranteed after the opening 1-1 split. ALCS Game 4 moves to 8 PM ET if NLCS ends in a sweep; ALCS Game 6 moves to 8 PM ET if there is no NLCS Game 7.

ALCS: TBS, truTV and HBO Max; Spanish coverage on UniMas. NLCS: FOX/FS1, FOX Deportes and FOX One. Confirm the game-specific channel and any revised time with MLB. [1]



Rays vs. Guardians

CURRENT SERIES STATE

Tied 1-1

HOME FIELD: TAMPA BAY | AL SEEDS: TB 1, CLE 2

THE SERIES BATTLE

Tampa Bay won the regular-season matchup 5-1 and posted a .728 team OPS to Cleveland's .696. Those credentials favor the Rays, but the opening ALCS split creates a fresh contest. Cleveland now hosts three games; Tampa Bay owns the final two dates if needed. Watch how the Rays approach Jose Ramirez with runners aboard, and whether either offense can force the opposing starter to leave before the preferred relievers are ready.

EDITORIAL SERIES PROJECTION

Tampa Bay in 7

A narrow editorial lean toward the stronger season profile and final home dates.

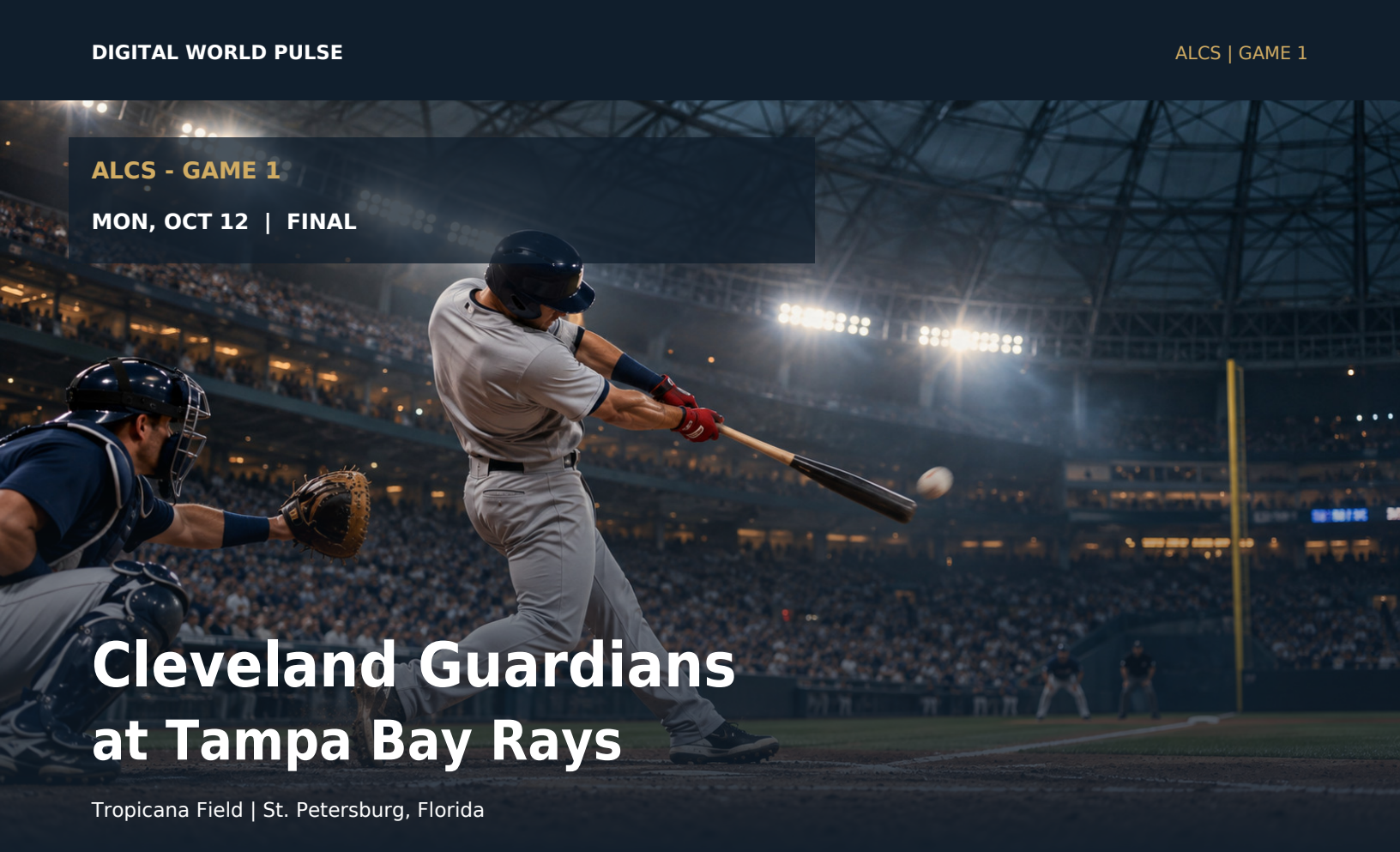
THE MAIN PROJECTED PATH

GAME 3	CLE 4 - TB 3	OCT 15
GAME 4	TB 5 - CLE 3	OCT 16
GAME 5	CLE 3 - TB 2	OCT 17
GAME 6	TB 4 - CLE 2	OCT 19 if needed
GAME 7	TB 4 - CLE 3	OCT 20 if needed

Projections are original editorial scenarios. Confirmed starters and lineups can change the lean. They are not results or model-based probabilities. [1, 2]

ALCS - GAME 1

MON, OCT 12 | FINAL



Cleveland Guardians at Tampa Bay Rays

Tropicana Field | St. Petersburg, Florida

FINAL RESULT

CLE 7 - TB 3

COMPLETED

Series after this game: Cleveland led 1-0.

THE RESULT

Cleveland won the opener 7-3 and immediately removed the possibility of a Tampa Bay sweep. A road victory matters twice in a seven-game series: it adds a win and means the visiting team can advance without winning every game at the other club's park.

WHAT THE SCORE TELLS US

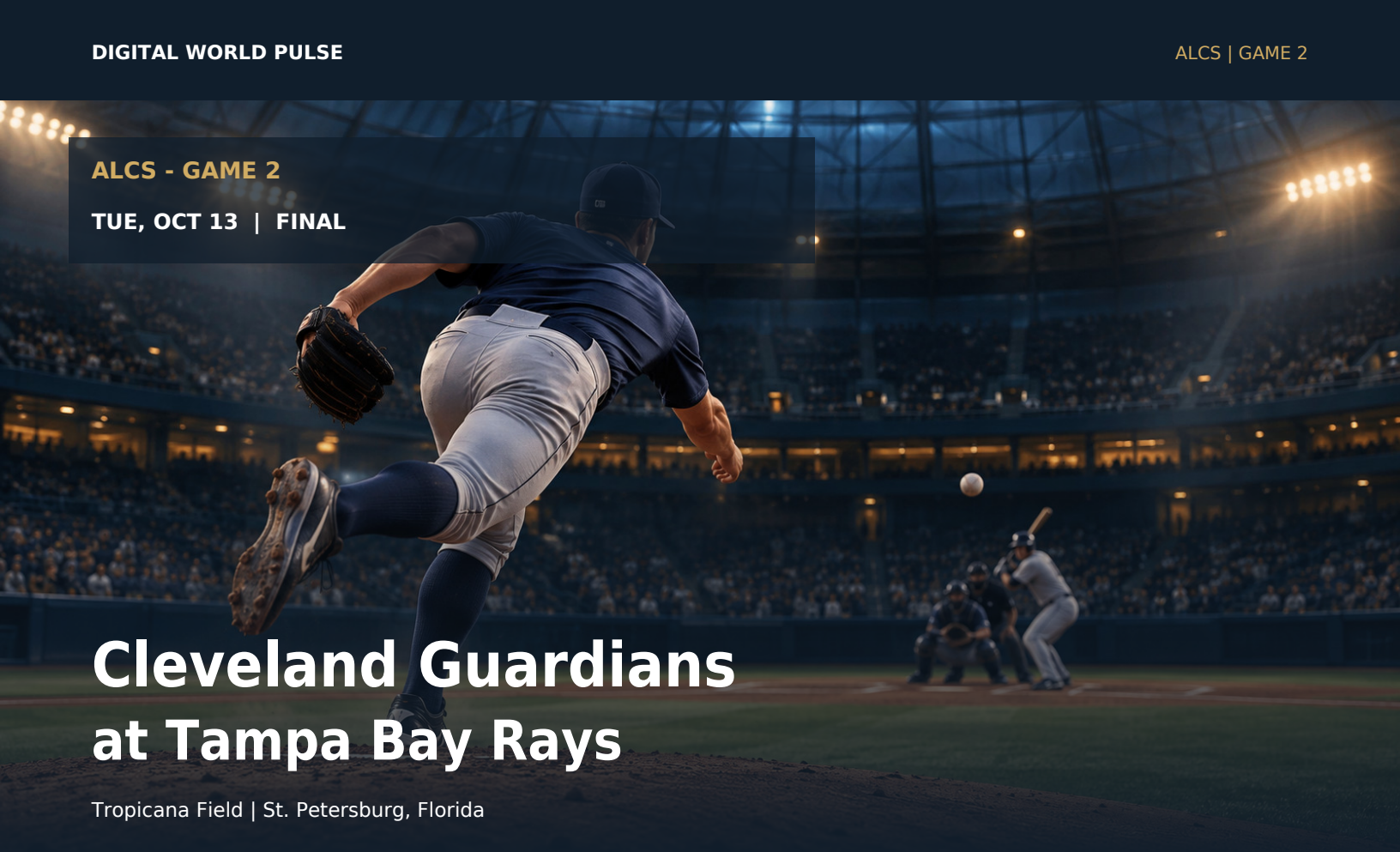
The four-run margin is the outcome, not a reliable forecast of the next meeting. The useful tactical question is how each club handles innings with runners aboard. Converting those opportunities without giving away extra outs is more repeatable than expecting the same run total.

SERIES TAKEAWAY

Cleveland could approach Game 2 with a split already secured. Tampa Bay needed a response before the move north. This is a completed-game review; the 7-3 score is a verified result, not a projection.

ALCS - GAME 2

TUE, OCT 13 | FINAL



Cleveland Guardians at Tampa Bay Rays

Tropicana Field | St. Petersburg, Florida

FINAL RESULT

TB 3 - CLE 1

COMPLETED

Series after this game: tied 1-1.

THE RESULT

Tampa Bay answered with a 3-1 win. The clubs leave Florida level at one game apiece, making the next three scheduled games in Cleveland especially important. Neither side now needs a long comeback; both have a direct route to the pennant.

WHAT CHANGED

The combined scoring fell from ten runs in the opener to four in Game 2. That contrast is a reminder to resist building a series forecast from one final score. In a tighter game, a single defensive mistake, walk or extra-base hit can carry disproportionate weight.

NEXT IN THE SERIES

Cleveland has the next home stand, while Tampa Bay retains the final two home dates if they are required. The immediate contest is Game 3 on October 15. The 3-1 score above records what happened; later pages contain the guide's editorial estimates.

ALCS - GAME 3

THU, OCT 15 | 6:00 PM ET

Tampa Bay Rays at Cleveland Guardians

Progressive Field | Cleveland, Ohio

EDITORIAL SCORE PROJECTION

CLE 4 - TB 3

UPCOMING

Confirmed game | Series tied 1-1 at publication.

THE MATCHUP

The series resumes in Cleveland with a chance to establish a 2-1 lead. The Guardians can put pressure on Tampa Bay by reaching base ahead of Jose Ramirez and making the Rays pitch to him in a consequential inning. Tampa Bay needs clean first-pitch strikes without leaving predictable fastballs over the plate.

WHY THIS SCORE

A 4-3 Cleveland win is an editorial lean toward a competitive game decided by one productive inning. The teams have already traded victories, so the estimate assumes neither runs away from the matchup. Home field is a modest tiebreaker here, not a guarantee.

WHAT COULD CHANGE IT

The starting-pitcher pairing and confirmed lineup can outweigh that small home edge. Revisit this estimate if a key hitter is unavailable, a starter is limited or the forecast materially changes. No unannounced pitching assignment is assumed.

ALCS - GAME 4

FRI, OCT 16 | 6:00 PM ET



Tampa Bay Rays at Cleveland Guardians

Progressive Field | Cleveland, Ohio

EDITORIAL SCORE PROJECTION

TB 5 - CLE 3

UPCOMING

Confirmed game | Start moves to 8:00 PM ET if NLCS ends in a sweep.

THE MATCHUP

A second night in Cleveland tests each manager's relief plan. Tampa Bay can make its better regular-season offensive output matter by extending at-bats and attacking the next pitcher before he settles. Cleveland's counter is to keep runners off base ahead of the middle of the order and defend without conceding a second chance.

WHY THIS SCORE

The 5-3 Tampa Bay estimate allows for one larger scoring inning rather than constant offense. It also provides the response in this guide's seven-game ALCS scenario after the projected Cleveland victory in Game 3. This is a forecast sequence, not a claim that either result has occurred.

WHAT COULD CHANGE IT

Available relievers matter more than a generic home-versus-road label. If Cleveland reaches this game with its preferred late-inning options rested, the Rays' projected scoring edge should shrink. First pitch shifts to 8:00 PM ET if Milwaukee completes a four-game NLCS sweep.

**ALCS - GAME 5****SAT, OCT 17 | 8:00 PM ET**

Tampa Bay Rays at Cleveland Guardians

Progressive Field | Cleveland, Ohio

EDITORIAL SCORE PROJECTION**CLE 3 - TB 2****UPCOMING**

Confirmed game: the 1-1 opening split guarantees a Game 5.

THE MATCHUP

Game 5 is guaranteed because both teams already have a win. Its exact stakes depend on Games 3 and 4: it can be a clinching opportunity or the contest that creates a 3-2 advantage. Cleveland's final home game of the series is the obvious place to protect a slim lead.

WHY THIS SCORE

The 3-2 Cleveland projection favors run prevention and one timely hit over an offensive breakout. In the guide's main sequence, the series reaches this game tied 2-2, and Cleveland leaves with a 3-2 lead. That path explains the estimate; it does not assign a numerical win probability.

WHAT COULD CHANGE IT

A low-scoring game turns baserunning and defensive positioning into central decisions. Watch whether Cleveland challenges an outfielder's arm for an extra base, and whether Tampa Bay prioritizes the strikeout with a runner at third. If Game 4 consumes the preferred relievers, a 3-2 finish becomes less plausible.

ALCS - GAME 6

MON, OCT 19 | 5:00 PM ET

Cleveland Guardians at Tampa Bay Rays

Tropicana Field | St. Petersburg, Florida

EDITORIAL SCORE PROJECTION

TB 4 - CLE 2

IF NECESSARY

If necessary | Moves to 8:00 PM ET if there is no NLCS Game 7.

THE MATCHUP

Game 6 exists only if neither club has reached four wins. In this guide's main sequence, Tampa Bay returns home down 3-2 and needs a victory to stay alive. The practical challenge is to score without pressing into low-percentage swings while keeping enough pitching available for another night.

WHY THIS SCORE

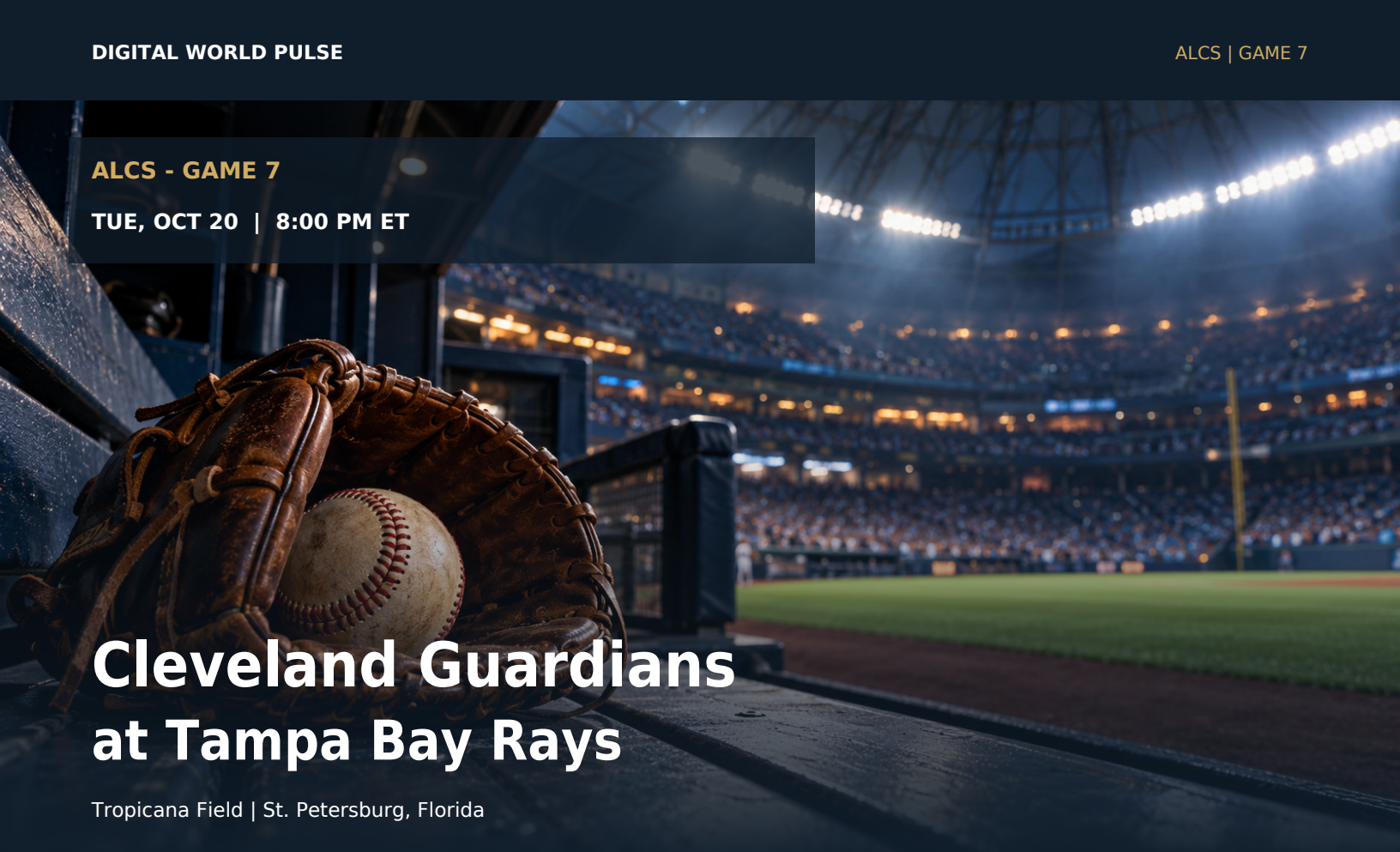
A 4-2 Rays win reflects a moderate home-field response in that elimination scenario. The projection assumes Tampa Bay gets an early foothold and avoids a major late-inning mistake. It deliberately stops short of predicting a blowout in a game where the pitching plan remains unsettled.

WHAT COULD CHANGE IT

If a club advances in Game 5, this page becomes an unused schedule slot. If it is played, confirm the updated start time and available arms. The published 5:00 PM ET start moves to 8:00 PM ET when the NLCS has no Game 7.

ALCS - GAME 7

TUE, OCT 20 | 8:00 PM ET

A close-up shot of a worn brown leather baseball glove with a white baseball inside, resting on a dark wooden bench. In the background, a large baseball stadium is filled with spectators under bright lights at night.

Cleveland Guardians at Tampa Bay Rays

Tropicana Field | St. Petersburg, Florida

EDITORIAL SCORE PROJECTION

TB 4 - CLE 3

IF NECESSARY

If necessary | Played only if the ALCS reaches 3-3.

THE MATCHUP

A seventh game replaces the longer series plan with one night of decisions. A manager can use a starter earlier, shorten a hitter's leash or call on a trusted reliever before the ninth inning. The winning approach is to match that urgency with clean execution rather than treat every at-bat as a home-run attempt.

WHY THIS SCORE

Tampa Bay 4-3 completes the Rays-in-seven scenario. The lean gives some weight to Tampa Bay's stronger regular-season offensive profile and its home venue, while the one-run margin recognizes Cleveland's successful opening road split. A winner-take-all game can quickly overwhelm those longer-term advantages.

WHAT COULD CHANGE IT

If the series ends earlier, there is no Game 7. If it reaches this point, update the estimate using the actual pitching options, injuries and six preceding games. A single late rally or defensive play can overturn a one-run projection; the uncertainty is substantial.



Brewers vs. Dodgers

CURRENT SERIES STATE

Milwaukee leads 2-0

HOME FIELD: MILWAUKEE | NL SEEDS: MIL 1, LAD 2

THE SERIES BATTLE

Milwaukee won the regular-season series 4-3 and now has a 2-0 NLCS lead. The Dodgers get the next home stand, but must win four of the remaining five possible games to advance. Watch Shohei Ohtani's ability to reach base for Los Angeles and Jackson Chourio's opportunities with men aboard for Milwaukee. The Brewers can be selective with pitching changes; the Dodgers have less room to let a difficult inning develop.

EDITORIAL SERIES PROJECTION

Milwaukee in 6

The existing 2-0 lead is the strongest fact behind this editorial scenario.

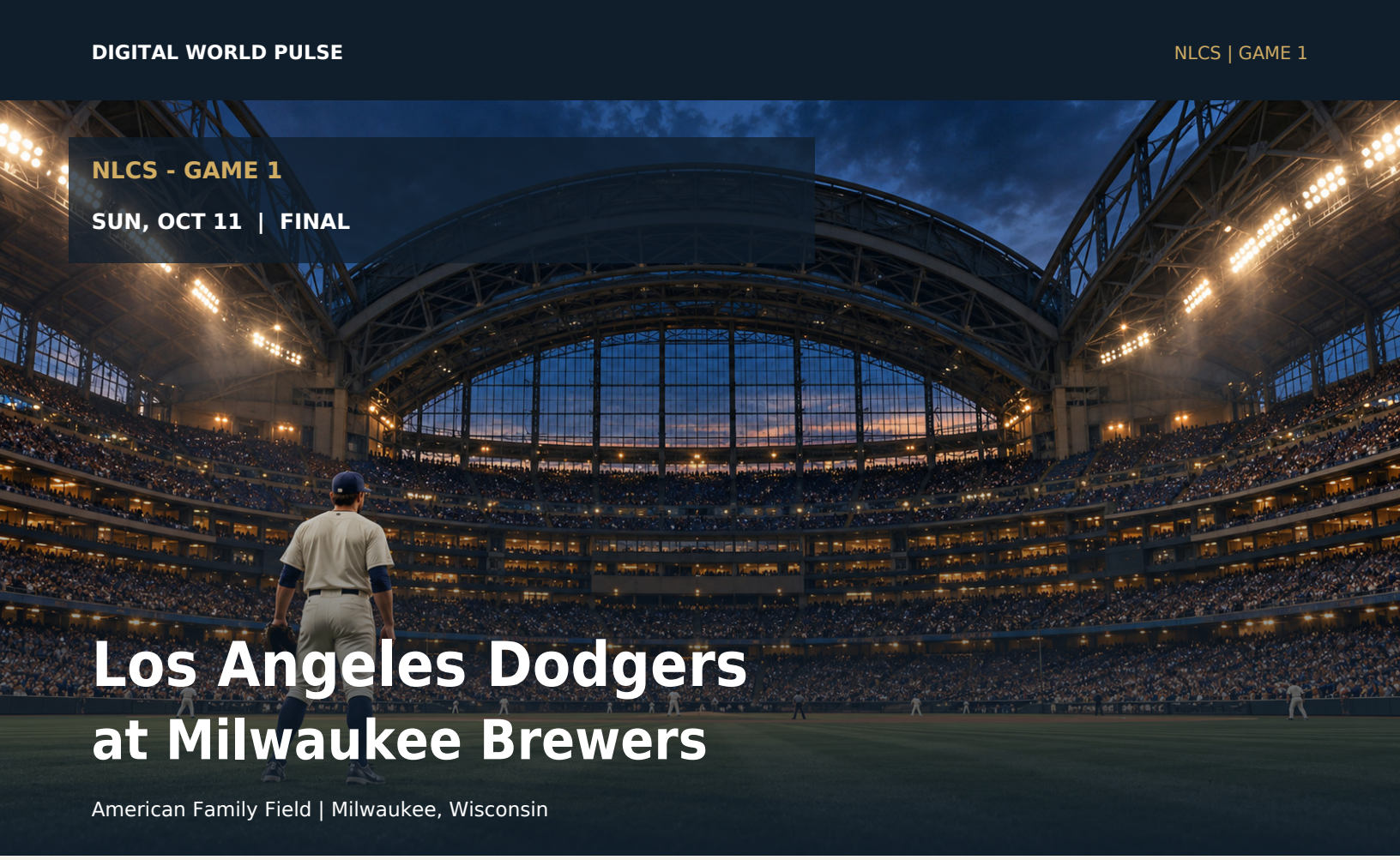
THE MAIN PROJECTED PATH

GAME 3	LAD 5 - MIL 3	OCT 14
GAME 4	MIL 4 - LAD 3	OCT 15
GAME 5	LAD 6 - MIL 4	OCT 16 if needed
GAME 6	MIL 4 - LAD 2	OCT 18 if needed
GAME 7	Alternate only: MIL 3 - LAD 2	OCT 19 if needed

Projections are original editorial scenarios. Confirmed starters and lineups can change the lean. They are not results or model-based probabilities. [1, 2]

NLCS - GAME 1

SUN, OCT 11 | FINAL



Los Angeles Dodgers at Milwaukee Brewers

American Family Field | Milwaukee, Wisconsin

FINAL RESULT

MIL 2 - LAD 1

COMPLETED

Series after this game: Milwaukee led 1-0.

THE RESULT

Milwaukee opened the NLCS with a 2-1 victory. In a one-run game, the final margin gives little room for a wasted baserunner or an extra defensive out. The Brewers gained the first win and forced Los Angeles to look for a response before the series changed ballparks.

THE TACTICAL LESSON

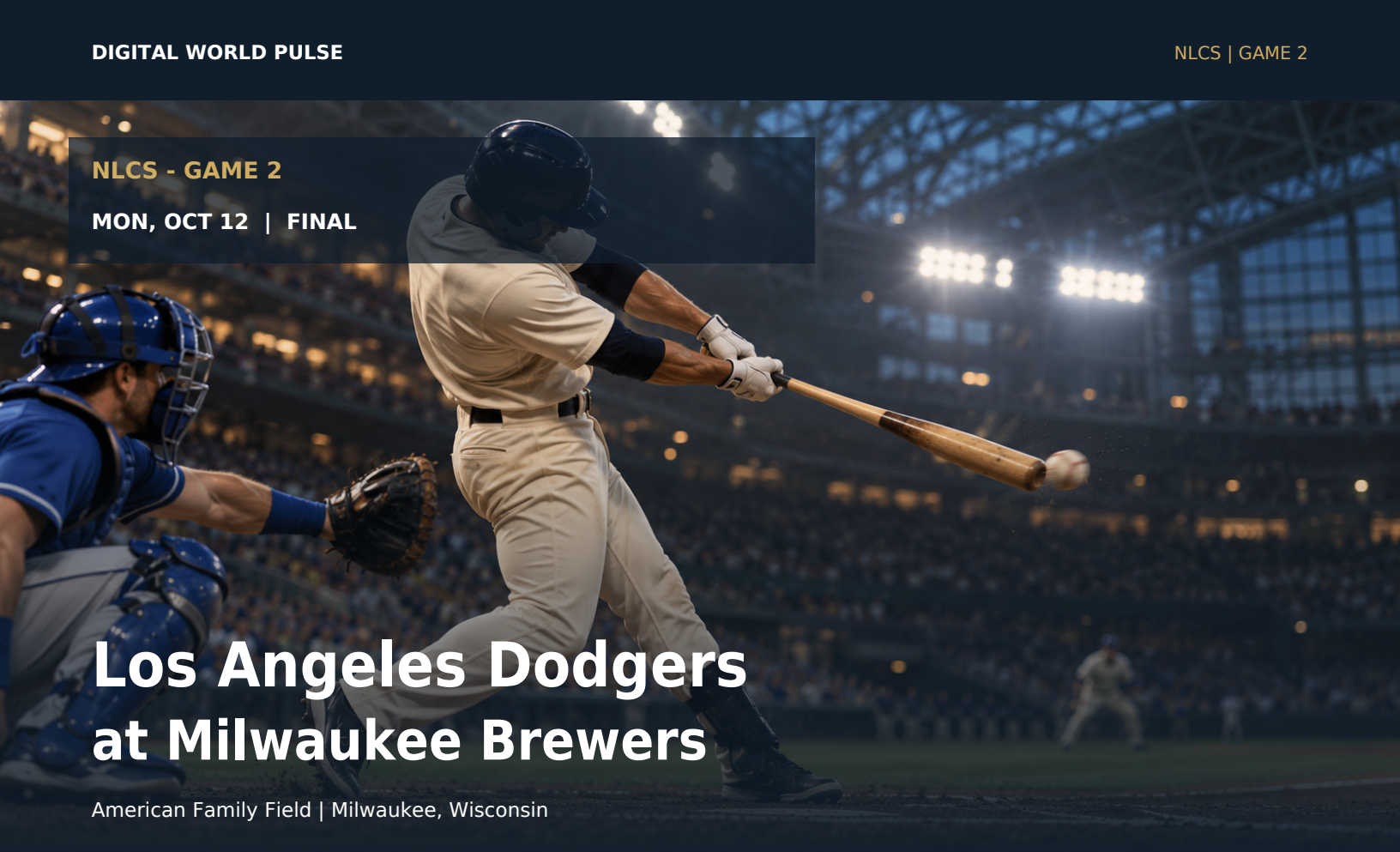
A three-run combined total does not establish the scoring level for all seven games. It does show why preserving run-scoring chances matters in a close contest: a useful advance, disciplined plate appearance or well-timed extra-base hit can be more valuable than a string of aggressive swings.

SERIES TAKEAWAY

Winning the opener allowed Milwaukee to keep its home-field advantage intact. Los Angeles still had time to leave with a split. This page reviews a completed game; the 2-1 line is an official final score rather than a predicted result.

NLCS - GAME 2

MON, OCT 12 | FINAL



Los Angeles Dodgers at Milwaukee Brewers

American Family Field | Milwaukee, Wisconsin

FINAL RESULT

MIL 7 - LAD 4

COMPLETED

Series after this game: Milwaukee led 2-0.

THE RESULT

Milwaukee followed the narrow opener with a 7-4 win, taking a 2-0 series lead. The stakes now change for Los Angeles: one good home game is necessary to slow the deficit, but a single response will not erase it. Milwaukee can advance by splitting the next four games.

WHAT THE TWO GAMES SHOW

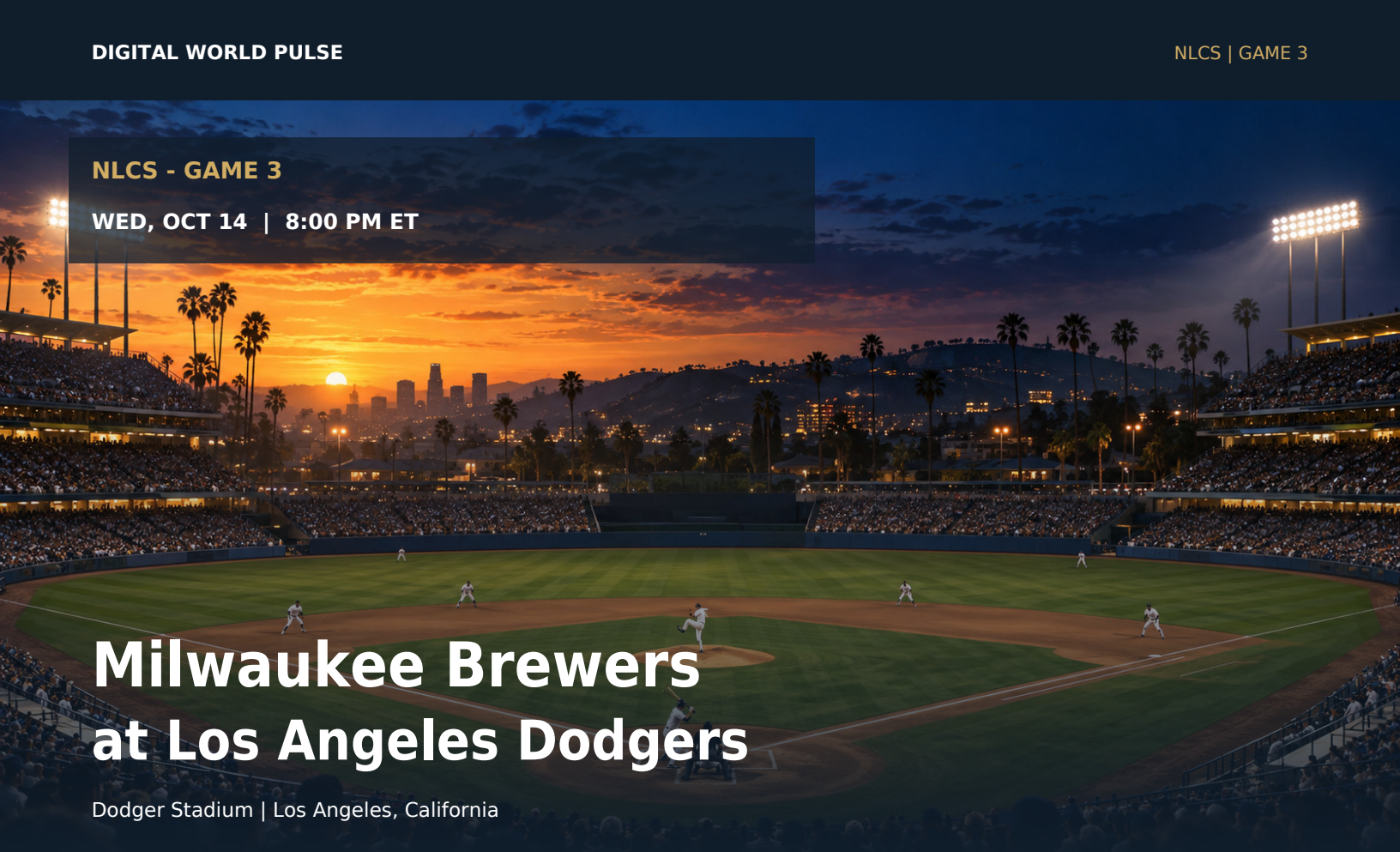
The combined scoring moved from three runs in Game 1 to eleven in Game 2. That change argues for flexible projections rather than a fixed expectation of a pitching duel. The series score is clear; the scoring pattern is still based on only two games.

NEXT IN THE SERIES

The NLCS moves to Los Angeles for Games 3 and 4, with Game 5 there if needed. Milwaukee controls the shorter path to the pennant. Any upcoming estimate must account for that 2-0 head start instead of pretending this is an untouched pre-series matchup.

NLCS - GAME 3

WED, OCT 14 | 8:00 PM ET



Milwaukee Brewers at Los Angeles Dodgers

Dodger Stadium | Los Angeles, California

EDITORIAL SCORE PROJECTION

LAD 5 - MIL 3

UPCOMING

Confirmed game | Milwaukee leads 2-0 at publication.

THE MATCHUP

The Dodgers return home down 2-0 and need to turn Shohei Ohtani's plate appearances into productive innings. Milwaukee's task is to keep traffic off the bases ahead of the Los Angeles middle order. An early Dodgers lead would also let the home manager use his bullpen to protect a game rather than chase it.

WHY THIS SCORE

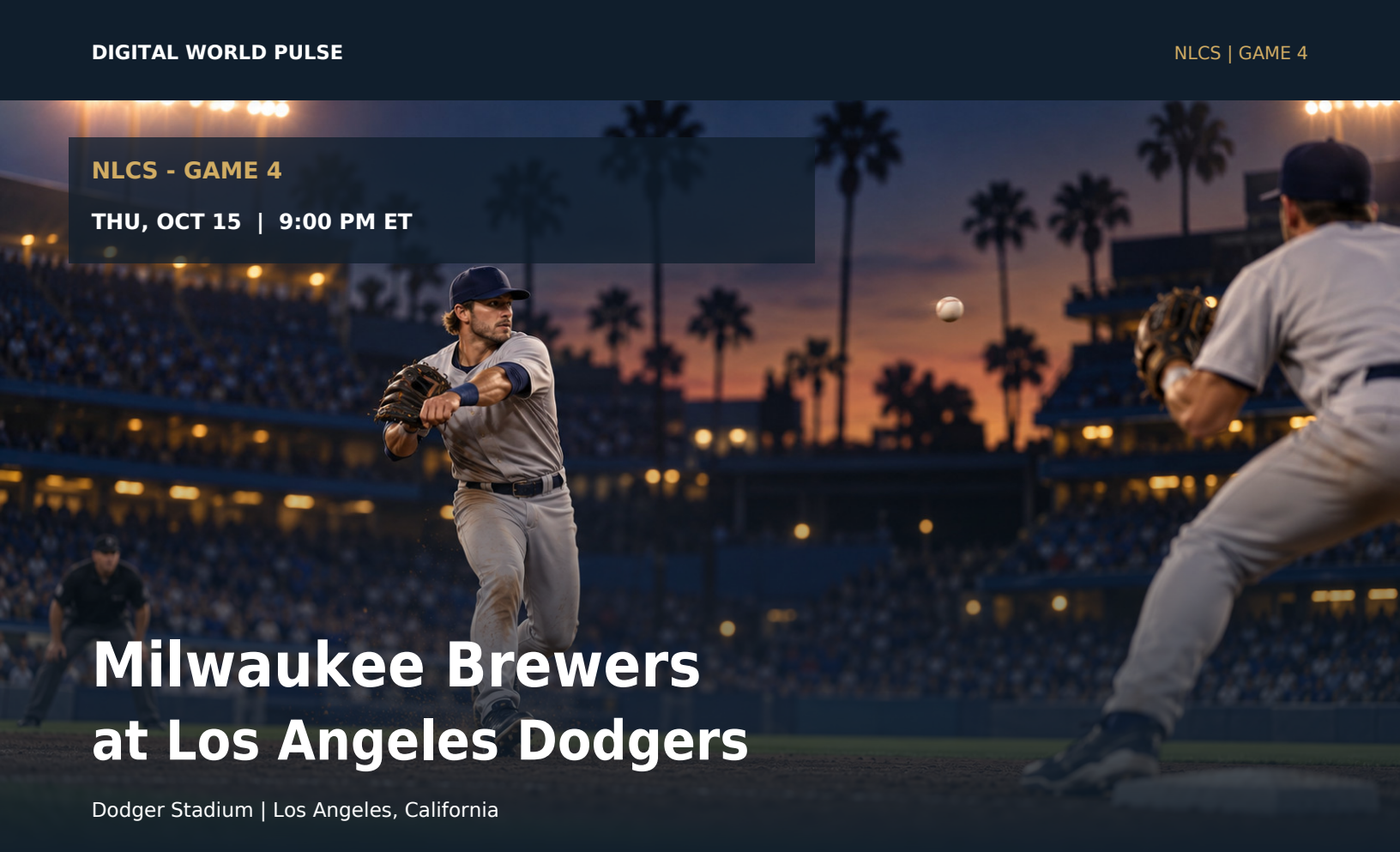
The 5-3 Dodgers estimate is an editorial lean toward a home response, with one sustained scoring inning creating separation. It does not erase Milwaukee's series advantage. In the main projection path, Los Angeles wins tonight and still must solve several more games to reach the World Series.

WHAT COULD CHANGE IT

Confirm the starting matchup and batting order before relying on this lean. A shortened start could turn the middle innings into a different contest, while an unavailable core hitter would lower the Dodgers' projected run total. The estimate is not tied to an invented lineup or starter.

NLCS - GAME 4

THU, OCT 15 | 9:00 PM ET



Milwaukee Brewers at Los Angeles Dodgers

Dodger Stadium | Los Angeles, California

EDITORIAL SCORE PROJECTION

MIL 4 - LAD 3

UPCOMING

Confirmed game | The clinching stakes depend on Game 3.

THE MATCHUP

Game 4 can be a Milwaukee clincher or a chance to move ahead 3-1. Jackson Chourio's opportunities become more dangerous when the Brewers avoid empty outs in front of him. Los Angeles should make the visiting lineup earn its way aboard, because a free runner makes every subsequent extra-base hit more costly.

WHY THIS SCORE

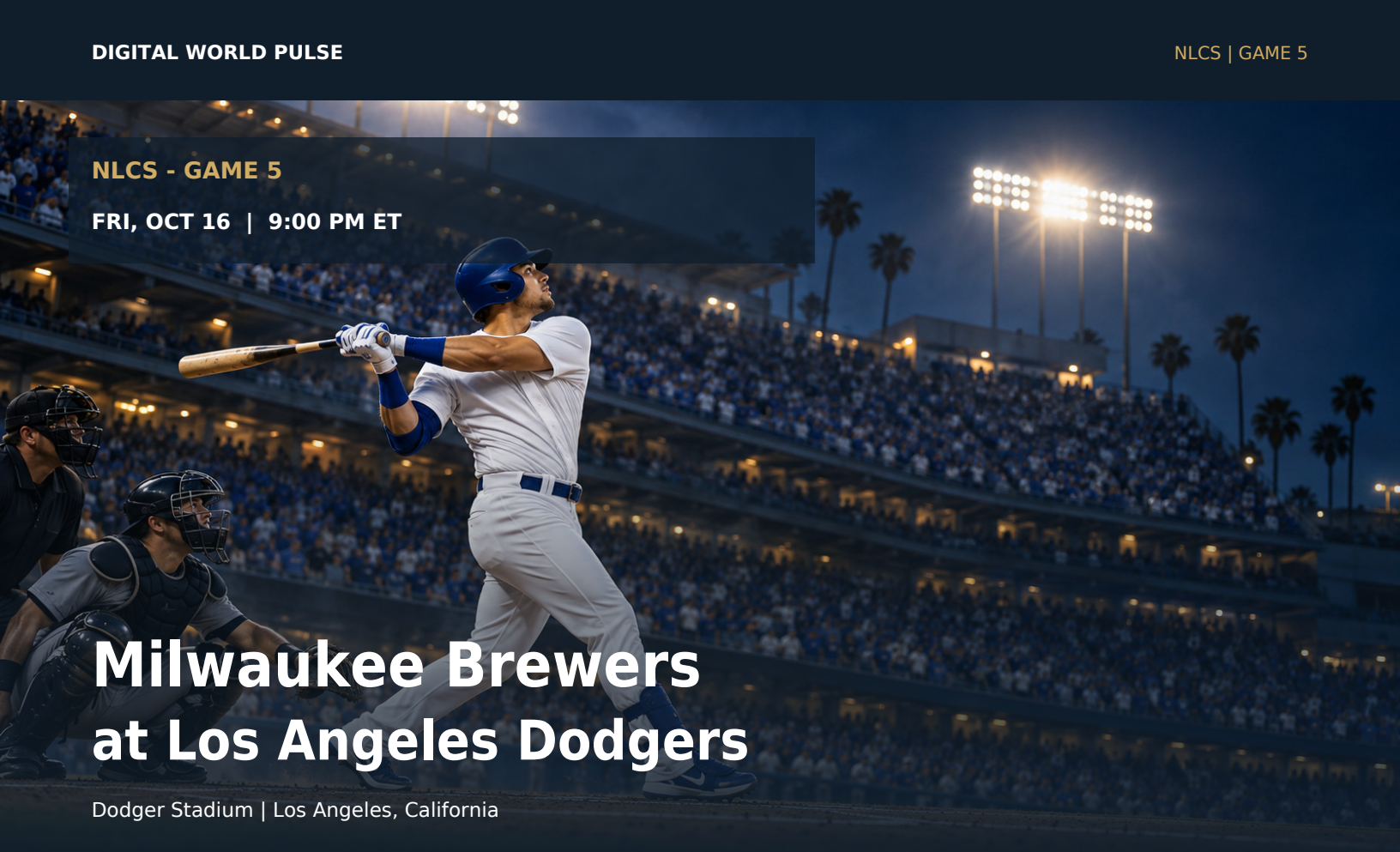
Milwaukee 4-3 is a narrow road-win scenario. In this guide's main path, it follows a Los Angeles win in Game 3 and puts the Brewers ahead 3-1. That assumed sequence explains why the next page still contains a Game 5; it is not a report of future events.

WHAT COULD CHANGE IT

A heavily used bullpen after Game 3 could affect both the winner and the scoring level. Check which late-inning pitchers are available and whether a starter is expected to work deep into the game. With a one-run lean, those details can reverse the preference.

NLCS - GAME 5

FRI, OCT 16 | 9:00 PM ET



Milwaukee Brewers at Los Angeles Dodgers

Dodger Stadium | Los Angeles, California

EDITORIAL SCORE PROJECTION

LAD 6 - MIL 4

IF NECESSARY

If necessary | Cancelled if Milwaukee sweeps the first four games.

THE MATCHUP

A Game 5 is played only if Milwaukee has not completed a sweep. In the main forecast sequence, the Dodgers enter down 3-1 with no margin for another loss. The offense must create multiple scoring chances rather than depend on one dramatic swing to carry the entire game.

WHY THIS SCORE

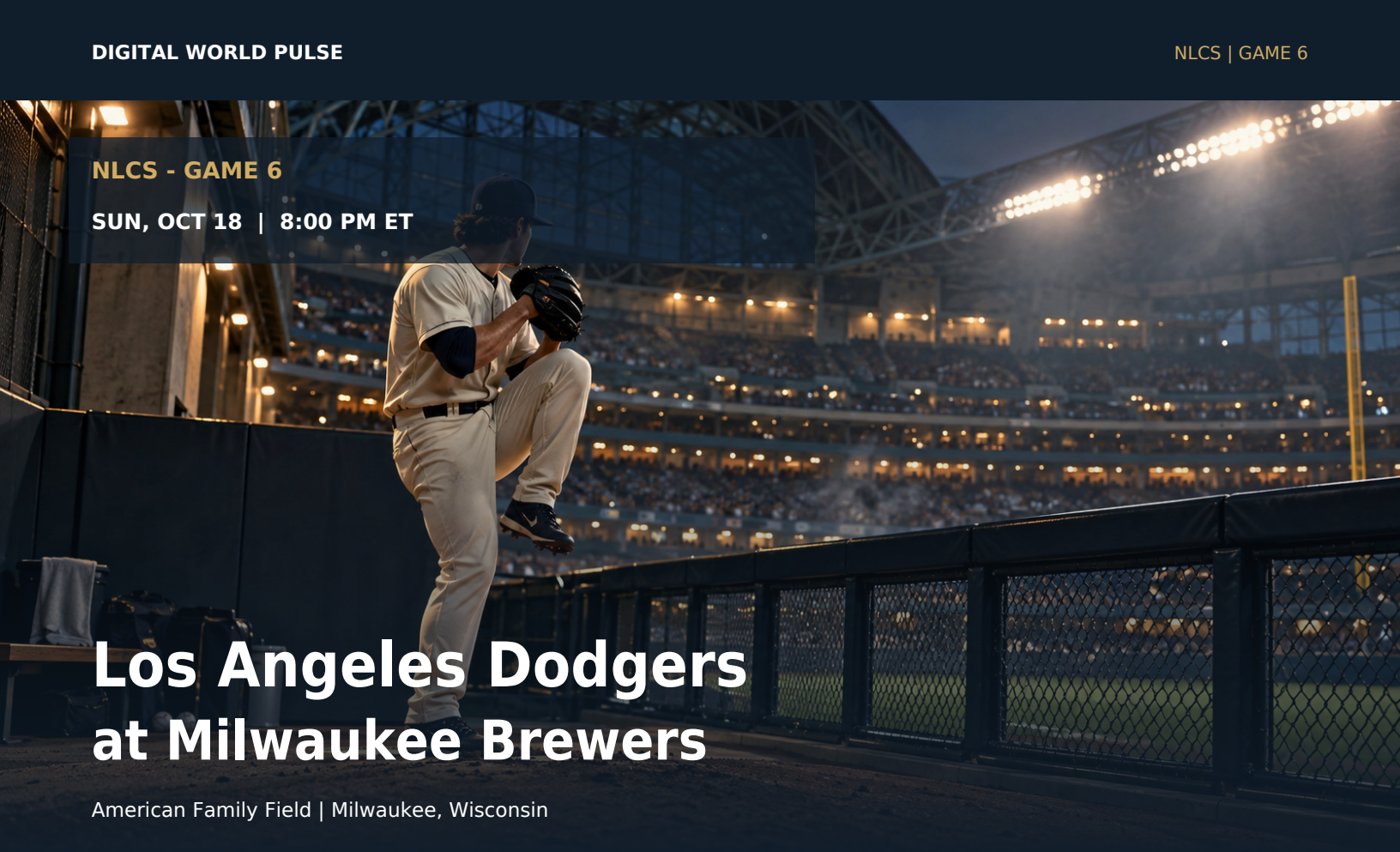
The 6-4 Los Angeles projection is the highest-scoring remaining estimate in this guide. It assumes a longer offensive night and some accumulated strain on pitching after three consecutive games at the same park. It gives the Dodgers a second win without assuming that home field alone decides the series.

WHAT COULD CHANGE IT

Watch the first trip through the batting order: hard contact with few strikeouts supports this higher-scoring view, while repeated poor swings weaken it. The Dodgers also need runners aboard when Ohtani reaches the plate. A Milwaukee sweep cancels this date entirely; otherwise use the actual Game 4 workload to refresh the estimate.

NLCS - GAME 6

SUN, OCT 18 | 8:00 PM ET



Los Angeles Dodgers at Milwaukee Brewers

American Family Field | Milwaukee, Wisconsin

EDITORIAL SCORE PROJECTION

MIL 4 - LAD 2

IF NECESSARY

If necessary | Main editorial path ends with Milwaukee winning 4-2.

THE MATCHUP

If the series returns to Milwaukee, the Brewers again have the last two home dates. In the guide's main sequence they lead 3-2, making this a chance to finish the pennant race without a deciding game. The Dodgers' priority would be to score early enough to keep the entire Milwaukee pitching plan under pressure.

WHY THIS SCORE

Milwaukee 4-2 completes the editorial Brewers-in-six scenario. The lean combines the existing 2-0 lead with a home finish after Los Angeles wins twice. It is a transparent sequence of opinions, not a model claiming to know the exact result or the length of the series.

WHAT COULD CHANGE IT

Game 6 disappears if either club has already clinched. If played, the actual rotation alignment and relief workload should replace this advance scenario. A Dodgers win would force Game 7 and move the guide to the separate conditional estimate on the next page.

NLCS - GAME 7

MON, OCT 19 | 8:00 PM ET

Los Angeles Dodgers at Milwaukee Brewers

American Family Field | Milwaukee, Wisconsin

EDITORIAL SCORE PROJECTION

MIL 3 - LAD 2

IF NECESSARY

Alternate scenario only | Played if the NLCS reaches 3-3.

THE MATCHUP

This page covers the schedule's final possible game, not an extra contest after Milwaukee has clinched. If Game 7 is required, Los Angeles has overcome the early deficit and the entire season turns on one night. Milwaukee's home field would be helpful, but the available pitchers and actual lineup would take priority.

WHY THIS SCORE

The conditional 3-2 Brewers estimate is an alternate to the main Milwaukee-in-six path. It applies only if the Dodgers win Game 6 and force a 3-3 tie. The modest margin keeps the forecast proportionate to a deciding game in which both managers can shorten normal roles.

WHAT COULD CHANGE IT

Do not combine this alternate result with the projected Game 6 clincher. Update it if the game becomes real, using six games of new information and confirmed personnel. A low-scoring estimate can be undone quickly by an early mistake or a single extra-base hit.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Disclaimer & Sources

INFORMATION SNAPSHOT

This edition was checked on October 14, 2026, before NLCS Game 3. Dates, venues, broadcasters and completed scores use MLB information. The ALCS was tied 1-1 and Milwaukee led the NLCS 2-0. Start times are ET and may change. Conditional games are played only while the series remains undecided.

HOW TO READ THE PROJECTIONS

Upcoming scores and series picks are original Digital World Pulse editorial estimates based on the verified series state, game location and plausible scoring scenarios. They are not statistical-model outputs, live odds or guaranteed outcomes. No unconfirmed starting assignment, injury status or lineup is presented as fact. Refresh projections once personnel and the preceding game results are known.

SCENARIO CONSISTENCY

The main paths are Tampa Bay in seven and Milwaukee in six. The NLCS Game 7 score is a separate alternate scenario, valid only if Los Angeles forces a 3-3 tie. Completed games display final results and are never relabeled as predictions.

VISUALS AND INDEPENDENCE

Images are AI-generated editorial illustrations; they do not document verified scenes from these games. Digital World Pulse is an independent publication and is not affiliated with or endorsed by Major League Baseball, its clubs or the broadcasters.

OFFICIAL SOURCES**[1] MLB postseason schedule and results**

www.mlb.com/news/2026-mlb-playoff-and-world-series-schedule

[2] MLB: League Championship Series matchups

www.mlb.com/guardians/news/mlb-2026-league-championship-series-matchups

[3] MLB probable pitchers and game information

www.mlb.com/probable-pitchers