

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL CARDS

A NEW CHAMPION TO CHASE

MLBC

SEASON THREE

2024 GAME LOG



SEASON PREVIEW

Two seasons have turned MLBC expectations into history, pressure and unfinished business. Toronto begins Season Three with the trophy after surviving the brink in October and finishing its climb against San Francisco. The Giants return with a pennant and the memory of how close the final step felt. Houston remains dangerous, Atlanta brings the reigning NL Cy Young winner, and the Dodgers and Yankees enter another short season with no appetite for leaving their promise unfinished. The Mets have made the loudest move of all, pairing Max Scherzer with Jacob deGrom and turning anything short of a deep October run into disappointment before Opening Day even arrives. Boston must replace important offense, Cleveland is trying to own its division for a third straight year, Seattle wants another chance after a first-round exit, and St. Louis begins again with Albert Pujols back in the middle of the story. Forty games leave no room for ceremony. Every sweep moves a race, every ace start can tilt a week, and every slow opening threatens to become a season before anyone is ready. The trophy belongs to Toronto. The next story belongs to whoever takes it.

Because three of the best words in sports are...

It's Opening Day!

MLBC — WEEK 1

GAMES 1-4 • OPENING WEEK

MINNESOTA RUNS THE TABLE

One perfect club, a no-hitter, and a league that immediately refuses to ease into Season Three.

THE LEAD Season Three opened with Toronto defending the championship, San Francisco carrying the National League pennant, and every club reset to 0-0. The first four games offered immediate measuring sticks: Toronto returned to Boston for an ALCS rematch, the Yankees opened in Tampa Bay, the Mets unveiled the deGrom-Scherzer pairing in Miami, and Atlanta began with Spencer Strider trying to build on a record-setting rookie season. Boston was already replacing Xander Bogaerts and J.D. Martinez, San Francisco had entered the post-Bonds era, and both Miami and Oakland arrived with waves of rookies. The league had history now.

THE WEEK Minnesota made a clean start, going 4-0 and becoming the only unbeaten club. Miami supplied the first thunderbolt when Sandy Alcantara came within one walk of a perfect game and no-hit the Mets. Atlanta answered with Strider's 4-hit, 14-strikeout complete-game shutout, while Ozzie Albies drove in eight across the week. Houston won its first two games while scoring only three total runs because Justin Verlander and Framber Valdez scarcely allowed anything. Colorado and Seattle produced the week's strangest finish: the Rockies scored six in the 11th, Seattle answered with five, and Carlos Gonzalez's relay through Trevor Story cut down the tying run at the plate. The Yankees stole two late games in Tampa Bay, Toronto opened with a road sweep in Boston, and Baltimore, Chicago, Cincinnati, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Toronto and Atlanta all finished 3-1. Detroit and Arizona never found a win.

THE STAKES Minnesota leaves Opening Week alone at 4-0, but nine clubs are only one game behind and eleven more sit 2-2. The defending champion looks good without looking untouchable; the Mets have already seen both the promise and volatility of their super-rotation; and Houston has reminded the league that elite pitching can make a quiet offense feel sufficient. Week 2 begins the first sorting: Boston goes to Baltimore, Toronto visits Yankee Stadium, San Francisco goes into Dodger Stadium, and Philadelphia gets the Mets before New York turns to Washington. Detroit and Arizona already need an answer. Four games have not created a favorite. They have created urgency.

TOP OF TABLE
MIN • 4-0CHASE PACK
9 clubs • 3-1EARLY TROUBLE
DET / ARI • 0-4ONLY PERFECT
MIN • 4 straight

WEEKLY HONORS

HITTER OF THE WEEK

GOLD OZZIE ALBIES • ATL2 HR • 8 RBI • *Grand Slam***SILVER** IVAN RODRIGUEZ • TEX

2 HR • 6 RBI

BRONZE DAVID WRIGHT • NYM

3 HR • 4 RBI

PITCHER OF THE WEEK

GOLD SANDY ALCANTARA • MIA

NO-HITTER • 1 BB

SILVER SPENCER STRIDER • ATL

CG SHO • 4 H • 14 K

BRONZE LOGAN GILBERT • SEA

CG SHO • 3 H

MLBC — WEEK 2

GAMES 5-8 • EARLY SEPARATION

FOUR CLUBS SHARE THE FRONT*The Mets sweep the week, Seattle explodes, and the first layer of the standings begins to separate.*

THE LEAD Minnesota entered Week 2 as the only 4-0 club, with nine teams immediately behind at 3-1. Detroit and Arizona were already 0-4, while several contenders faced early measuring sticks: Toronto went to Yankee Stadium, San Francisco visited the Dodgers, Minnesota went to Tampa Bay, Atlanta met Washington before St. Louis, and Philadelphia entered New York at 1-3 with deGrom and Scherzer waiting. Eight games are only one-fifth of the schedule, but in MLBC that is enough for a rough opening to start looking structural.

THE WEEK The Mets were the only club to go 4-0, sweeping Philadelphia and Washington to reach 6-2. Seattle supplied the week's eruption. Julio Rodriguez followed a 4-for-4 game by going 6-for-6 in Anaheim, finishing the series 10-for-10 and scoring six times in the second game. Ken Griffey Jr. went 4-for-6 with two HR, two doubles, twelve total bases and nine RBI in Seattle's 18-run outburst. Albert Pujols answered with twelve total bases and eight RBI in one game for St. Louis. The Yankees swept the defending champions 15-4 across two games, while San Francisco swept the Dodgers on the road and later finished the week 6-2 overall. Washington handed Spencer Strider the first loss of his MLBC career with a three-run ninth-inning comeback. Arizona escaped its 0-4 start by sweeping Colorado, Boston scored 28 runs in Kansas City, and Cleveland swept Minnesota to climb back into a race that had nearly disappeared.

THE STAKES Houston, the Mets, Yankees and Giants now share the best record at 6-2, with six more clubs at 5-3. Minnesota has already gone from the league's only perfect team to part of the chase pack; Toronto has gone from champion's confidence to 4-4; and the Mets have transformed a 2-2 opening into the league's only perfect week. Week 3 brings Mets-Braves, Yankees-Red Sox, Dodgers-Padres and White Sox-Twins. Eight games have produced leaders, not safety. The most important development may be how many different clubs have already demonstrated that two games can completely change the meaning of the previous six.

TOP OF TABLE HOU / NYM / NYY / SFG • 6-2	PERFECT WEEK NYM • 4-0	CHASE PACK 6 clubs • 5-3	SEATTLE OUTBURST 18 runs • 22 hits
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WEEKLY HONORS

HITTER OF THE WEEK GOLD KEN GRIFFEY JR. • SEA <i>2 HR • 2 2B • record 9 RBI</i> SILVER ALBERT PUJOLS • STL <i>12 TB • 8 RBI in one game</i> BRONZE LUIS ROBERT • CHW <i>8-for-10 series • 17 TB</i>	PITCHER OF THE WEEK GOLD CARLOS RODON • SFG <i>7 scoreless IP • 3 H</i> SILVER ADAM WAINWRIGHT • STL <i>7 scoreless IP • 16 straight</i> BRONZE GERRIT COLE • NYY <i>7 scoreless IP vs. TOR</i>
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MLBC — WEEK 3

GAMES 9-12 • THE FIRST BREAKAWAY

THE METS MAKE THEIR MOVE*New York reaches 10-2, Tampa Bay storms back into relevance, and three clubs suffer a lost week.*

THE LEAD Houston, the Mets, Yankees and Giants entered Week 3 tied at 6-2, and the schedule immediately forced the top of the table into confrontation. New York went to Atlanta, the Yankees visited Boston, Los Angeles went to San Diego, and Chicago met Minnesota with the AL Central already carrying real weight. Boston had just climbed from 1-4 to 4-4 after a record setting 28 runs in their two game sweep of the Royals. The Mets had spent the offseason building a rotation meant for this exact kind of separation. Now they had a chance to create it.

THE WEEK The Mets seized the week, sweeping Atlanta before taking two more at home to reach 10-2 and stand alone with MLBC's best record. Tampa Bay also went 4-0, turning a 3-5 start into 7-5. Chicago's week contained the season's wildest endurance test: the White Sox beat Minnesota 9-8 in nineteen innings, then started four fresh bench players the next day and watched all four homer, including Jake Burger's 3-run shot and four-RBI debut. Minnesota's perfect opening vanished into six consecutive losses. Bryan Reynolds won consecutive Pittsburgh games with late singles, first in the 16th and then in the 9th. Philadelphia continued its own recovery from 1-5 behind Ryan Howard's four HR, while Justin Verlander threw a 1-hit, 13-strikeout shutout and Zac Gallen a 3-hit, zero-walk shutout. The Mets' breakaway mattered, but the week's deeper theme was reinvention: Tampa Bay, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh all found ways to keep their seasons from hardening into their worst early versions.

THE STAKES The Mets stand 10-2. The Yankees and Giants are 9-3; Chicago and Houston are 8-4. Minnesota, the Angels and St. Louis all went 0-4 and suddenly have much less runway. A four-game skid consumes ten percent of the MLBC schedule, making it a costly misstep. New York has created the season's first real platform at the top, but the White Sox have also discovered something unusually valuable in a short season: depth that can win games when the everyday lineup rests. Week 4 sends the Mets to Dodger Stadium, the Yankees to Anaheim, Minnesota to Houston and Seattle to Chicago. Twelve games have produced the first breakaway. The question is whether anybody can make New York look back.

BEST RECORD
NYM • 10-2
PERFECT WEEK
NYM / TBR • 4-0
CHASERS
NYN / SFG • 9-3
LOST WEEK
MIN / LAA / STL • 0-4
WEEKLY HONORS**HITTER OF THE WEEK****GOLD AUSTIN MEADOWS • TBR**

3 HR • 8 RBI

SILVER PETE ALONSO • NYM

3 HR • 7 RBI

BRONZE RYAN HOWARD • PHI

4 HR • 5 RBI

PITCHER OF THE WEEK**GOLD JUSTIN VERLANDER • HOU**

CG SHO • 1 H • 1 BB • 13 K

SILVER ZAC GALLEN • ARI

CG SHO • 3 H • 0 BB

BRONZE WALKER BUEHLER • LAD

CG SHO • 5 H

MLBC — WEEK 4

GAMES 13-16 • FAULT LINES

THE AL RACES TIGHTEN*Baltimore and Cleveland go perfect while the Mets keep a firm hand on the league's best record.*

THE LEAD The Mets entered Week 4 at 10-2, with the Yankees and Giants at 9-3 and Chicago and Houston at 8-4. New York had created separation, but the American League remained unstable enough for one perfect week to reorder an entire division. Boston went to Cleveland, Seattle visited the White Sox, Toronto faced Chicago, and Minnesota traveled to Houston trying to stop a six-game collapse. In the National League, Philadelphia and San Francisco met with the Phillies attempting to turn a disastrous opening into an actual playoff position.

THE WEEK Baltimore and Cleveland delivered the only 4-0 weeks. The Orioles climbed into a tie with the Yankees at 11-5 atop the AL East, while Cleveland completed an extraordinary recovery from 1-5 by winning seven straight and pulling even with Chicago at 10-6 in the Central. The White Sox remained one of the league's most unusual stories: Jake Burger took over third base from Yoan Moncada after exploding off the bench, while Chicago's reserves had supplied eight of the club's thirty HR through fourteen games. Philadelphia kept climbing too. The Phillies swept San Francisco, including a Game #15 ending when Camilo Doval threw a bases-loaded wild pitch, and finished the week having won eight of ten since falling to 1-5. Albert Pujols drove in six in one game for St. Louis, while Spencer Strider, Jack Flaherty and Michael Wacha all threw complete-game shutouts. Minnesota's nightmare continued, reaching ten consecutive losses.

THE STAKES The Mets still own the league at 13-3. Baltimore, Houston, the Yankees and San Francisco sit 11-5; Chicago and Cleveland are 10-6. Two American League races that looked orderly have been compressed into direct fights, while Philadelphia has transformed itself from crisis story to Wild Card threat. Minnesota and Cincinnati have moved the other direction and now live in the danger zone. Week 5 takes everyone to the halfway point, with Cleveland visiting the Yankees, Tampa Bay going to Houston, San Francisco visiting Atlanta and Seattle facing Baltimore. Sixteen games have drawn the fault lines. The midpoint will tell us which ones widen.

BEST RECORD
NYM • 13-3
PERFECT WEEK
BAL / CLE • 4-0
AL EAST
BAL / NYY • 11-5
AL CENTRAL
CHW / CLE • 10-6
WEEKLY HONORS**HITTER OF THE WEEK****GOLD ALBERT PUJOLS • STL**

2 HR • 2-run 2B • 6 RBI in Game #16

SILVER JAKE BURGER • CHW

3 HR • 8 RBI

BRONZE EDDIE MURRAY • BAL

3 HR • 8 RBI

PITCHER OF THE WEEK**GOLD SPENCER STRIDER • ATL**

CG SHO • 3 H • 12 K

SILVER JACK FLAHERTY • STL

CG SHO • 3 H • 13 K

BRONZE MICHAEL WACHA • STL

CG SHO • 2 H

MLBC — WEEK 5

GAMES 17-20 • HALFWAY

THE METS OWN THE MIDPOINT

New York reaches 17-3, three clubs sweep the week, and Chris Sale writes a no-hitter into the season.

THE LEAD The halfway week began with the Mets at 13-3 and the Yankees, Orioles, Astros and Giants just two games behind at 11-5. Chicago and Cleveland were three games back at 10-6. The AL East, Central and West were all compressed enough that one sweep could redraw them. New York had Cincinnati and San Francisco; Houston drew Tampa Bay and Kansas City; the Yankees had Cleveland and Oakland; Seattle had Baltimore and Boston; and Minnesota entered still trying to stop a losing streak that had consumed almost everything created by its 5-1 start.

THE WEEK The Mets did not blink, going 4-0 to reach 17-3. Kansas City and Seattle matched the perfect week. The Royals' rise was particularly dramatic: four one-run victories against Baltimore and Houston pushed them fully into the AL Central race. Minnesota's losing streak reached twelve before the Twins finally erupted with a sweep of Texas, turning one of the season's ugliest slides into at least the possibility of survival. Arizona authored an extraordinary pitching response against Chicago, with Zac Gallen and Merrill Kelly combining to help the Diamondbacks outscore the Cubs 22-0 across the series. Chris Sale supplied the week's permanent headline, throwing a no-hitter with two walks and 18 strikeouts. Adam Wainwright reached the midpoint with a 0.47 ERA, while Aaron Nola added a 2-hit shutout. The Mets' 17-3 record changed the psychology of the entire second half, but the week beneath them was full of clubs refusing to accept the shape their first sixteen games had given them.

THE STAKES At twenty games, the Mets own the first true cushion at 17-3. Houston, the Yankees and Seattle are 13-7; Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland and the Dodgers are 12-8. Kansas City has forced itself into the Central conversation, while Minnesota has finally stopped the bleeding. The second half opens with the Subway Series, Cubs-White Sox, Padres-Phillies and Atlanta-Milwaukee. Half the schedule is gone. The remaining twenty games are enough for a comeback, but no longer enough for patience. Everyone beneath New York is now running two races at once: one against the Mets' record, and another against the traffic surrounding them.

MIDPOINT KING
NYM • 17-3PERFECT WEEK
KCR / NYM / SEA •
4-0AL WEST
HOU / SEA • 13-7ROUGH WEEK
BAL / CHC / CIN / SFG
• 0-4

WEEKLY HONORS

HITTER OF THE WEEK

GOLD CECIL FIELDER • DET2 HR • 7 RBI • *Grand Slam***SILVER SHOHEI OHTANI • LAA**

2 HR • 5 RBI

BRONZE YORDAN ALVAREZ • HOU

2 HR • 5 RBI

PITCHER OF THE WEEK

GOLD CHRIS SALE • BOS

NO-HITTER • 2 BB • 18 K

SILVER AARON NOLA • PHI

CG SHO • 2 H • 1 BB • 10 K

BRONZE ADAM WAINWRIGHT • STL

CG SHO • 0 R • 0.47 ERA

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL CARDS - 2024 - SEASON 3

MLBC — ALL-STAR BREAK

20 GAMES COMPLETE • MIDSEASON CLASSIC

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OWNS THE BREAK

Pete Alonso turns Game 1 into a rout, then the National League steals Game 2 in extra innings.

THE STAGE The midpoint showcase opened with the American League scoring first, but the night quickly became Pete Alonso's. Season Three had already produced a parade of elite pitching performances and explosive individual weeks, and the All-Star break collected that talent into two games without removing the competitive edge. The first game became a power show. The second became a pressure game that needed extra innings.

THE SERIES Alonso hit a 2-run HR in the 4th and a Grand Slam in the 5th, driving in six as the National League rolled to a 9-2 Game 1 victory. Game 2 looked nothing like it. Gerrit Cole and Clayton Kershaw each threw three scoreless innings, and the American League built a 2-0 advantage. The National League finally answered in the 8th, with Chase Utley helping drive the comeback that tied the game. Neither side could break through in the 9th. In the 10th, Jake McCarthy tripled, turning one swing into immediate pressure, and Utley followed with the walk-off RBI single for a 3-2 win. Jake McCarthy was named All-Star MVP.

THE HINGE The National League leaves the break with a two-game sweep, one built through Alonso's overwhelming power and the other through an extra-inning comeback. Twenty regular-season games are complete and twenty remain. The showcase changes nothing in the standings, which is exactly why it works as a hinge. The first half belongs to the Mets at 17-3, but the second half begins with a crowded AL Central, a tied AL West race close behind Houston and Seattle, and an NL West still within reach of several clubs. One half has been preserved. The next twenty games have half the runway and twice the consequence.

SERIES NL SWEEP • 2-0	GAME 1 NL 9 • AL 2	GAME 2 NL 3 • AL 2	HEADLINER PETE ALONSO
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ALL-STAR MOMENTS

GAME 1 PETE ALONSO • NL 2 HR • 6 RBI • Grand Slam in the 9-2 win	GAME 2 CHASE UTLEY • NL RBI 1B in the 8th • walk-off RBI 1B in the 10th
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MLBC — WEEK 6

GAMES 21-24 • SECOND HALF

SAN DIEGO HITS THE GAS

The Padres post the only 4-0 week while Arizona's Corbin Carroll turns the second half into a personal showcase.

THE LEAD The second half opened with the Mets at a remarkable 17-3 and everybody else already calculating how much ground twenty remaining games could realistically recover. Houston, the Yankees and Seattle were 13-7. Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland and Los Angeles sat 12-8, while San Diego and Arizona remained close enough to make the NL West immediately volatile. San Francisco had just gone 0-4 to fall from 11-5 to 11-9, while Kansas City had forced itself into the AL Central race with four straight one-run wins, with Chicago and Cleveland still one game ahead of Kansas City. The Padres opened in Philadelphia and then Cincinnati, needing more than a good week. They needed a move.

THE WEEK San Diego delivered the only 4-0 week in MLBC. Yu Darvish opened with a 2-hit complete-game shutout of Philadelphia, Blake Snell and the bullpen blanked the Phillies the next day, and the Padres followed those two shutouts with two comeback wins in Cincinnati to reach 14-10 and pull even with Los Angeles. The Mets still went 3-1 and reached 20-4, so nobody touched the leader, but the races beneath New York changed quickly. Corbin Carroll hit four HR and drove in eight for Arizona. Paul Skenes came within one out of his finest start, carrying a 2-0 shutout against the Dodgers into the 9th before Max Muncy, Adrian Gonzalez and Joc Pederson reached and Will Smith turned the game completely around with a 2-out Grand Slam. Chris Archer answered the next day by shutting out Los Angeles for eight innings in a 1-0 Pittsburgh win. Baseball supplied both sides of the lesson in forty-eight hours.

THE STAKES The Mets lead baseball at 20-4, but the races underneath them have become dense. Chicago and Kansas City share the AL Central at 14-10 with Cleveland one game back. Los Angeles and San Diego are tied at 14-10, while Arizona and San Francisco sit 13-11. The Padres have transformed the West without threatening New York's larger cushion. Week 7 brings Houston to Baltimore, Texas into Yankee Stadium, Arizona to New York and the Yankees into Houston. Sixteen games remain. New York is trying to protect history; almost everyone else is trying merely to survive the traffic.

BEST RECORD
NYM • 20-4

ONLY PERFECT
SDP • 4-0

AL CENTRAL
CHW / KCR • 14-10

NL WEST
LAD / SDP • 14-10

WEEKLY HONORS

HITTER OF THE WEEK

GOLD CORBIN CARROLL • ARI

4 HR • 8 RBI

SILVER VICTOR MARTINEZ • DET

2 HR • 5 RBI

BRONZE XANDER BOGAERTS • SDP

Grand Slam • 5 RBI

PITCHER OF THE WEEK

GOLD YU DARVISH • SDP

CG SHO • 2 H

SILVER YOSHINOBU YAMAMOTO • LAD

8 scoreless IP • 3 H • 1 BB

BRONZE JAKE ARRIETA • CHC

CG SHO • 10 K

MLBC — WEEK 7

GAMES 25-28 • TWELVE TO GO

NOBODY GETS A CLEAN WEEK

The leaders trade blows, Kansas City reaches first place, and not one club escapes the four-game block unbeaten.

THE LEAD New York entered Week 7 at 20-4, Houston at 16-8 and Atlanta, the Yankees and Seattle at 15-9. The top belonged to the Mets. Everything beneath them looked temporary. Chicago and Kansas City shared the Central, Los Angeles and San Diego shared the NL West, and Arizona and San Francisco remained within one sharp week of joining that race. The Giants entered having lost eight of ten, turning a division lead into a fight to stay alive in the playoff race. Twelve games would remain when this four-game block ended.

THE WEEK For the first time all season, nobody went 4-0. The Mets split and still reached 22-6. Atlanta and Houston moved to 18-10, while Kansas City climbed to 17-11 and took the AL Central lead after winning thirteen of seventeen following its poor opening. Bobby Witt Jr. had become more than the face of the recovery; he had become part of the league's MVP conversation. Toronto stayed alive with a road sweep of Seattle, Roberto Alomar helping drive a champion that refused to disappear quietly. Mookie Betts authored the loudest individual game, going 4-for-5 with two HR, a 2-run triple and five RBI. Luis Arraez went 5-for-5 with four doubles. Wilyer Abreu supplied Boston's most dramatic swing, a 12th-inning Grand Slam in an 8-4 road win at Seattle. Joe Musgrove carried a 1-hit shutout into the 9th against the Yankees. With no perfect club, every split mattered more.

THE STAKES The Mets remain miles ahead at 22-6. Atlanta and Houston are 18-10. Kansas City, Los Angeles, the Yankees and San Diego sit 17-11. Chicago and Cleveland are one game behind the Royals. The AL Central has become a true three-team sprint. Arizona and San Francisco remain close enough in the NL West that one strong series could still change the race. Twelve games remain. Week 8 sends Boston to Atlanta, Seattle into Cleveland and San Diego into Dodger Stadium, while Toronto and Texas both try to save seasons that have narrowed dangerously. The leaders are no longer trying to identify themselves. They are trying to protect what they have while the clubs behind them begin treating ordinary series like elimination rounds.

BEST RECORD
NYM • 22-6

NO PERFECTS
0 clubs • 4-0

AL CENTRAL
KCR • 17-11

NL WEST
LAD / SDP • 17-11

WEEKLY HONORS

HITTER OF THE WEEK

GOLD MOOKIE BETTS • LAD

2 HR • 2-run 3B • 5 RBI

SILVER LUIS ARRAEZ • MIA

5-for-5 • 4 2B • 3 RBI

BRONZE WILYER ABREU • BOS

12th-inning go-ahead Grand Slam

PITCHER OF THE WEEK

GOLD JOE MUSGROVE • HOU

1-hit shutout into 9th

SILVER JACOB deGROM • NYM

8 scoreless IP

BRONZE JARED JONES • PIT

8 scoreless IP • 3 H • 1 BB

MLBC — WEEK 8

GAMES 29-32 • EIGHT TO GO

BOSTON CRASHES THE EAST

The Red Sox go 4-0, Kansas City holds the Central, and the final eight games arrive with almost every race alive.

THE LEAD Twelve games remained with the Mets at 22-6 and nearly every meaningful race underneath them unsettled. Kansas City had taken the AL Central. Los Angeles and San Diego shared the NL West. The Yankees led the East, but Baltimore and Boston remained close enough for one four-game surge to turn a chase into a tie. Toronto had just swept Seattle to keep its title defense alive, making Boston's trip north a direct collision between two clubs fighting for the same shrinking ground. Houston and Seattle still had unfinished business, while Arizona and San Francisco remained close enough to stay alive.

THE WEEK Boston produced exactly the week it needed. The Red Sox swept Atlanta and then Toronto, went 4-0 and reached 18-14, pulling even with New York atop the AL East. Detroit created its own late-season jolt by sweeping the Yankees, with Tarik Skubal throwing a brilliant 3-hit, 15-strikeout complete-game shutout opposite Gerrit Cole before Casey Mize finished the two-game statement. Cincinnati also went 4-0 after spending much of the season buried. Kansas City reached 20-12 and kept its Central lead; Houston joined the Royals at 20-12. The Mets reached 24-8 even while dropping conspicuous games to Miami and Pittsburgh, one more reminder that their record no longer required perfection. In the NL West, Los Angeles and San Diego split two games in which every run came via the HR, a fittingly blunt exchange between clubs still tied at 19-13. Shohei Ohtani hit three HR and drove in six; Fernando Tatis Jr. matched the three-HR week.

THE STAKES Eight games remain. Boston and New York are tied in the AL East. Kansas City leads Cleveland by one. Houston leads Seattle by two. Los Angeles and San Diego remain dead even, with Arizona and San Francisco still close enough to matter. The Mets have essentially turned the top seed into a formality; everybody else is playing for position, survival and home field simultaneously. Week 9 sends Kansas City into Yankee Stadium, the Angels to Seattle, Atlanta to Miami and St. Louis into New York before the schedule turns toward rivalry-heavy second series. The standings are no longer forming. They are beginning to close doors.

AL EAST BOS / NYY • 18-14	PERFECT WEEK BOS / CIN • 4-0	AL CENTRAL KCR • 20-12	NL WEST LAD / SDP • 19-13
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WEEKLY HONORS

HITTER OF THE WEEK GOLD SHOHEI OHTANI • LAA 3 HR • 6 RBI SILVER FERNANDO TATIS JR. • SDP 3 HR • 5 RBI BRONZE YASMANI GRANDAL • CHW 6-for-8 • 3 HR • 4 RBI	PITCHER OF THE WEEK GOLD TARIK SKUBAL • DET CG SHO • 3 H • 1 BB • 15 K SILVER GEORGE KIRBY • SEA CG SHO • 3 H • 0 BB BRONZE LUIS CASTILLO • CIN CG SHO • 4 H • 9 K
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MLBC — WEEK 9

GAMES 33-36 • STRETCH RUN

THE RACES DETONATE

Four clubs go perfect, the Yankees reclaim the East, and every division reaches the final week with pressure attached.

THE LEAD Eight games remained. The Mets were 24-8. Houston and Kansas City sat 20-12, and Boston and New York were tied for the East. Los Angeles and San Diego were tied for the NL West. St. Louis led Milwaukee by one. San Francisco entered outside the playoff bracket, leaving no room for a quiet week. Meanwhile Detroit had climbed from 4-10 to 15-17, staying alive. Almost every important margin was a single game, which meant Week 9 could create as much movement as the first month had needed several weeks to produce.

THE WEEK Atlanta, Detroit, the Yankees and San Francisco all went 4-0. New York reclaimed the East at 22-14. Cleveland moved one game ahead of Kansas City in the Central, while the Royals suffered the season's sharpest late reversal: 20-12 became 20-16 after sweeps by the Yankees and Minnesota. Detroit reached 19-17 after once sitting 4-10, a remarkable rescue even if October remained uncertain. San Francisco made an even more dramatic positional jump. The Giants swept Oakland and San Diego, and Evan Longoria's 11th-inning HR in the final game helped move them from outside the bracket into a Wild Card spot with four games left. Houston reached 23-13; Los Angeles reached 22-14 and opened a two-game West lead. In the Central, Tyler O'Neill's extra-inning HR against Milwaukee helped St. Louis protect its narrow advantage. Eddie Murray hit three HR in Baltimore's enormous Boston series, while Spencer Strider authored a 4-hit, 16-strikeout shutout.

THE STAKES Four games remain. The Mets are 26-10; Atlanta and Houston are 23-13; Los Angeles and the Yankees are 22-14. The AL East, Central and every Wild Card slot still contain moving pieces. St. Louis is 19-17, one game ahead of Milwaukee. San Francisco has forced itself back into October position just in time for the schedule to become merciless. Yankees-Orioles. Red Sox-Yankees. Cleveland-Kansas City. Seattle-Houston. Atlanta-Mets. Philadelphia-Milwaukee. San Francisco-Arizona. Dodgers-Giants. The final four games are no longer about momentum. They are about possession.

BEST RECORD
NYM • 26-10

PERFECT WEEK
ATL / DET / NYY / SFG
• 4-0

AL EAST
NYY • 22-14

FINAL MARGIN
4 games remain

WEEKLY HONORS

HITTER OF THE WEEK

GOLD EDDIE MURRAY • BAL
5-for-9 • 3 HR • 4 RBI

SILVER RYAN BRAUN • MIL
3 HR • 7 RBI

BRONZE MAX MUNCY • LAD
3 HR • 7 RBI

PITCHER OF THE WEEK

GOLD SPENCER STRIDER (2) • ATL
CG SHO • 4 H • 1 BB • 16 K

SILVER PAUL SKENES • PIT
7 scoreless IP

BRONZE MERRILL KELLY • ARI
7 scoreless IP

MLBC — WEEK 10

GAMES 37-40 • FINAL WEEK

THE METS REACH THIRTY

A wins record, a seven-run comeback, division clinchers and one last scramble send twelve clubs into October.

THE LEAD Four games remained with the Mets at 26-10, Atlanta and Houston at 23-13, and Los Angeles and the Yankees at 22-14. Boston, Cleveland and Seattle were 21-15, with Cleveland and Kansas City separated by just one game. St. Louis held the NL Central by one over Milwaukee, while Philadelphia, San Francisco, Arizona, Baltimore, Kansas City and Detroit were still trying to force themselves into October. Nothing beneath the Mets felt secure.

THE WEEK New York and Philadelphia both went 4-0. The Mets finished 30-10, setting the MLBC wins record after falling behind 7-0 in Game #40, erasing the entire deficit and winning on Pete Alonso's walk-off HR. Philadelphia's perfect week did two jobs at once: it pushed the Phillies into the postseason and, by sweeping Milwaukee, helped preserve St. Louis's division title even while the Cardinals themselves went 0-4. Arizona briefly looked ready to steal the ending by sweeping San Francisco, then gave the advantage back by losing twice to Colorado. Kansas City won its final two games, but the damage from its previous six losses was too large to overcome. Toronto finally ended a nine-game losing streak in its last game, an oddly appropriate closing note for the defending champion's fall from the bracket. The Yankees took the East, Cleveland won a third straight Central, Houston took the West, Los Angeles took the NL West and San Francisco's two-year division reign ended outside October.

THE STAKES The regular season is complete. Houston and the Yankees earn the American League byes; the Mets and Dodgers earn them in the National League. Cleveland hosts Boston, Seattle hosts Baltimore, St. Louis hosts Philadelphia and Atlanta hosts San Diego. The Mets enter October with a record thirty wins. St. Louis enters as a division champion at 19-21. Seattle won twenty-four games and still has to play a Wild Card series. Forty games have frozen every argument the regular season can answer. The defending champion Blue Jays and the defending NL champion Giants are both already out. The bracket now asks the only question that matters: who can keep winning when the records stop protecting anybody?

MLBC RECORD
NYM • 30-10

PERFECT WEEK
NYM / PHI • 4-0

DIVISION CLINCHERS
NYY / CLE / HOU /
STL / LAD

PLAYOFF FIELD
12 clubs remain

WEEKLY HONORS

HITTER OF THE WEEK

GOLD PETE ALONSO • NYM

3 HR • 7 RBI • *record-clinching walk-off*

SILVER BO JACKSON • KCR

3 HR • 7 RBI

BRONZE AARON JUDGE • NYY

2 HR • 6 RBI

PITCHER OF THE WEEK

GOLD JACOB deGROM • NYM

CG SHO • 2 H • 1 BB • 17 K

SILVER TYLER GLASNOW • TBR

CG SHO • 2 H • 2 BB • 12 K

BRONZE PAUL SKENES • PIT

CG SHO • 2 H • 0 BB

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL CARDS - 2024 - SEASON 3

MLBC — WILD CARD ROUND

GAMES 41-43 • BEST-OF-THREE

OCTOBER STARTS WITH WALK-OFFS

Two sweeps, two deciding games and three late swings turn the first round into instant October.

THE FIELD The Astros and Yankees waited with American League byes; the Mets and Dodgers waited in the National League. Cleveland hosted Boston with a year-old score to settle after the Red Sox swept the Guardians out of the Division Series the season before. Seattle hosted Baltimore with both teams eager to outdo the prior season. St. Louis hosted Philadelphia after the Cardinals lost four straight and the Phillies won four straight, and Atlanta hosted San Diego in a matchup of the NL's top two Wild Card seeds with Spencer Strider looking to carry the Braves. Eight clubs had spent forty games earning these matchups. Now every one of them needed two wins before the other side found them first.

THE ROUND Cleveland and Baltimore never needed Game #3. José Ramírez ended Boston's season with a 2-run walk-off HR in the 10th inning of Game #42, while Baltimore swept twenty-four-win Seattle on the road after Kyle Bradish opened the series with eight scoreless innings on one hit. The National League needed both deciders, but only one ended on a series-clinching walk-off. St. Louis forced Game #3 when Brendan Donovan hit a 2-out, 3-run walk-off HR in Game #42. Philadelphia answered the next day on the road: Bryce Harper tied the game, Ryan Howard's 8th-inning 2-run HR gave the Phillies the lead, and they finished a 4-2 win. Atlanta and San Diego went deeper. Fernando Tatis Jr. put the Padres ahead in the 12th, then Marcell Ozuna answered in the bottom half with the 2-out, 2-run walk-off HR that sent Atlanta through.

THE STAKES Cleveland goes to Yankee Stadium. Baltimore goes to Houston. Philadelphia goes to Los Angeles. Atlanta gets the assignment nobody wanted: the 30-win Mets. Seattle is gone after twenty-four victories. Boston is gone after returning from its early-season trouble to win twenty-three. The Cardinals survived a losing regular-season record only to watch Philadelphia take the decider on their field. October has already separated standings achievement from postseason survival. The four bye teams now enter against clubs that have already played with their seasons balanced on individual pitches.

SWEEPS CLE / BAL • 2-0	ROAD SHOCK BAL sweeps SEA	DECIDERS PHI / ATL • 2-1	WALK-OFFS Ramírez / Donovan / Ozuna
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ROUND RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE CLE def. BOS, 2-0 <i>Ramírez: 10th-inning clincher in Game #2</i> BAL def. SEA, 2-0 <i>Bradish: 8 scoreless / 1 H in Game #1</i>	NATIONAL LEAGUE PHI def. STL, 2-1 <i>Howard: deciding 2-run HR in Game #3</i> ATL def. SDP, 2-1 <i>Ozuna: 12th-inning walk-off in Game #3</i>
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THREE SERIES GO THE DISTANCE

Houston escapes an 0-2 hole, New York survives Cleveland, Los Angeles outlasts Philadelphia and Atlanta removes the 30-win Mets.

THE FIELD The four bye teams entered with rest and home field. The 24-16 AL East champion Yankees drew the three-time AL Central champion Guardians. The 25-15 AL West champion Astros drew a hot Baltimore team coming off a sweep of the 24-win Mariners in Seattle. The 25-15 NL West champion Los Angeles Dodgers drew a surging Philadelphia Phillies seeking their 2nd title. The Mets, owners of the best regular season in league history, drew the streaking Atlanta Braves, coming off a dramatic series against the Padres. Their opponents had already advanced through the Wild Card round. Three series would require every possible game.

THE ROUND New York and Cleveland traded control until the Yankees buried Game #48, 8-1, behind two 2-run HR from Giancarlo Stanton. Houston faced the deeper crisis. Baltimore won both games in Houston, putting the Astros down 0-2, before Houston answered with two road wins and returned home to win the decider 3-2 when Jeff Bagwell broke a late tie with a solo HR. Los Angeles and Philadelphia turned their series into a string of late-inning ordeals, including an eighteen-inning game, before the Dodgers finally took Game #48, 3-2, on Mookie Betts's go-ahead RBI 1B. Atlanta authored the round's defining upset. New York won Game #44, but the Braves took the next three. In the clincher, Spencer Strider beat Jacob deGrom 3-1 after Chipper Jones supplied the decisive 2-run HR. Thirty regular-season wins had earned the Mets home field, a bye and history. They had not earned immunity.

THE STAKES The Mets are gone. So are Cleveland, Baltimore and Philadelphia. New York and Houston now meet in the ALCS, the matchup their regular-season records had been threatening to produce. Atlanta heads to Los Angeles after eliminating the league's most dominant team. The Dodgers arrive after surviving a five-game series in which almost nothing came easily. Four teams remain, and every one has already had its postseason identity tested. Houston has escaped 0-2. Atlanta has removed history. Los Angeles has survived repeated late-game danger. New York is about to discover that its greatest danger has not happened yet.

COMEBACK HOU • down 0-2	DECIDER NYY 8 • CLE 1	FOUR THRILLERS LAD / PHI • 4 late finishes	TOP SEED OUT ATL def. NYM • 3-1
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SERIES RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE NYY def. CLE, 3-2 <i>Stanton: two 2-run HR in Game #5</i> HOU def. BAL, 3-2 <i>Astros win three straight after 0-2 hole</i>	NATIONAL LEAGUE LAD def. PHI, 3-2 <i>Betts drives in the Game #5 winner</i> ATL def. NYM, 3-1 <i>Strider wins the deGrom showdown</i>
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MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL CARDS - 2024 - SEASON 3

MLBC — CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

GAMES 49-55 • BEST-OF-SEVEN

NEW YORK DOES THE IMPOSSIBLE

The Yankees climb out of a 3-0 ALCS hole while the Dodgers beat Atlanta in six to claim the other pennant.

THE MATCHUPS Houston arrived as the #1 seed after surviving an 0-2 Division Series hole, while New York entered the ALCS coming off an elimination-game win. Both teams carried the two strongest American League records, but the Astros immediately seized the series and built a 3-0 lead. One more loss would send the Yankees home. The NLCS paired Atlanta, fresh from an epic elimination of the 30-win Mets, against a Dodger club that had survived Philadelphia in another elimination game. One series appeared nearly finished. The other could not decide what shape it wanted.

THE ROUND New York refused its ending. Luis Severino delivered a 6-0 win in Game #52. Gerrit Cole and the bullpen followed with a 1-0 Game #53. A seven-run 3rd inning powered the Yankees to an 8-2 Game #54 win and forced the impossible seventh game. Game #55 became an MLBC classic. Aaron Judge homered in the 8th, Yordan Alvarez answered in the bottom half, and Giancarlo Stanton preserved the season by throwing Jeremy Peña out at home in the 10th. In the 12th, Judge homered again. Hideki Matsui followed with a 2-run HR. New York won 7-4 and became the first MLBC team to erase a 3-0 postseason-series deficit. Los Angeles took a less theatrical but equally demanding route. Atlanta tied the NLCS 2-2 with a walk-off. The Dodgers then won twice, and the clincher became pure pitching: Walker Buehler carried a 1-0 shutout into the 8th before Kenley Jansen finished it.

THE PENNANTS The Yankees are American League champions. The Dodgers are National League champions. New York reaches the World Series after four consecutive victories with no margin for error. Los Angeles arrives after Buehler and Jansen turned the final game into a one-run lock. The Yankees bring October's historic comeback and Aaron Judge's eight postseason HR. The Dodgers bring home field and a rotation that has repeatedly shortened games as the stakes increased. Season Three has produced its final matchup. One side arrives through resurrection. The other arrives through pitching control.

AL COMEBACK NYY • down 0-3	GAME #55 NYY 7 • HOU 4 / 12 inn.	NL PENNANT LAD • 4-2	CLINCHER LAD 1 • ATL 0
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LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

AMERICAN LEAGUE NEW YORK YANKEES <i>Won four straight after falling behind 0-3</i> Series seal <i>Judge: 2 HR; Matsui: 2-run HR in 12th</i>	NATIONAL LEAGUE LOS ANGELES DODGERS <i>Defeated Atlanta, 4-2</i> Series seal <i>Buehler / Jansen finish a 1-0 clincher</i>
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MLBC — WORLD SERIES

GAMES 56-61 • THE FALL CLASSIC

LOS ANGELES FINISHES ON TOP

The Dodgers survive a 2-1 deficit, win three straight and beat New York in six for the Season Three championship.

THE STAGE Two seasons prior the Los Angeles Dodgers missed the playoffs after weighty expectations, and now they owned home field in the World Series. The New York Yankees arrived carrying the emotional force of the first 0-3 comeback in MLBC postseason history. Gerrit Cole opened against Clayton Kershaw. Aaron Judge entered with eight postseason HR. The Dodgers countered with the deepest remaining rotation and a lineup that had repeatedly found just enough offense to survive. The first two games would split in Los Angeles, sending the World Series east tied 1-1.

THE SERIES New York struck first behind Cole, winning Game #56, 5-1. Los Angeles answered immediately and violently, beating the Yankees 10-1 behind Walker Buehler in Game #57. New York reclaimed the lead in Game #58, a 5-4 walk-off after Will Smith tied the game in the 9th and DJ LeMahieu ended it with an RBI 2B. The Yankees' Game #58 walk-off looked like the series' emotional turning point; instead it was their final win of the season. Clayton Kershaw led a brilliant 3-0 shutout in Game #59, and Walker Buehler dominated eight innings in a 7-1 Game #60 victory. Back in Los Angeles with a 3-2 series lead, Yoshinobu Yamamoto gave the Dodgers eight strong innings while Freddie Freeman, Justin Turner, Trea Turner and Max Muncy built an 8-2 advantage. Kenley Jansen closed the 9th, and the Yankee miracle postseason run ended with three straight Dodger victories.

THE CHAMPIONS Los Angeles wins the World Series 4-2. Walker Buehler is the official World Series MVP and Playoff MVP after finishing the postseason 5-0 with a 1.66 ERA. Trea Turner is the official World Series MVP runner-up. New York's run ends two victories short after rewriting the league's comeback history. The Dodgers leave with something simpler and ultimately more valuable: the last three wins. Once Los Angeles fell behind 2-1, its rotation allowed the series almost no room to breathe. By Game #61, the Dodgers were no longer surviving New York's momentum. They were dictating how Season Three would end. Los Angeles, you are the 2024 MLBC champions, forever.

SERIES	TURNING POINT	CLOSING RUN	CLINCHER
LAD def. NYY • 4-2	LAD wins Games 4-5 in NY	LAD • 3 straight	LAD 8 • NYY 2

WORLD SERIES HONORS

CHAMPIONSHIP LOS ANGELES DODGERS <i>2024 MLBC World Series Champions</i> SERIES RESULT <i>Defeated New York, 4-2</i>	OFFICIAL HONORS WORLD SERIES MVP • WALKER BUEHLER <i>2 wins • dominant Games #57 / #60</i> RUNNER-UP • TREA TURNER <i>Official MLBC Statbook runner-up</i>
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MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL CARDS - 2024 - SEASON 3

MLBC — SEASON IN REVIEW

2024 • SEASON THREE

THE SEASON LOS ANGELES COMPLETED

A 30-win record ruled the regular season. A historic comeback and a dominant Dodger rotation ruled October.

THE SEASON Season Three spent forty games orbiting the Mets. New York reached 10-2, 17-3 at the midpoint and finally 30-10, setting a new MLBC wins record. Houston and Los Angeles finished 25-15; the Yankees, Cleveland, Seattle and Atlanta all reached twenty-four wins. The year also produced one of the strangest division races in league history, with St. Louis winning the NL Central tiebreaker at 19-21. Eddie Murray won the AL MVP, Albert Pujols the NL MVP, Gerrit Cole the AL Cy Young and Spencer Strider the NL Cy Young.

THE TURN October immediately refused to honor the standings. Baltimore swept twenty-four-win Seattle, then took a 2-0 Division Series lead on Houston before the Astros won three straight. Atlanta removed the 30-win Mets in four games. The Yankees went far into danger, falling behind Houston 3-0 in the ALCS before winning four straight. Aaron Judge hit two HR in the deciding game, Hideki Matsui supplied the 12th-inning blow, and Giancarlo Stanton's throw home preserved the comeback. Los Angeles survived Philadelphia in five, beat Atlanta in six and reached the World Series with its greatest strength still intact: starting pitching.

THE LEGACY The Dodgers finished the story. After trailing New York 2-1 in the World Series, Los Angeles won Games #59, #60 and #61 and took the championship 4-2. Walker Buehler became the official Playoff MVP and World Series MVP, finishing October 5-0 with a 1.66 ERA; Aaron Judge was the official Playoff MVP runner-up and Trea Turner the official World Series MVP runner-up. The Mets supplied the regular season's historic number. The Yankees supplied October's historic comeback. Los Angeles supplied the final three wins. Season Three widened MLBC history in every direction, but the championship still reduced all of it to the oldest truth in baseball: somebody eventually has to get the last out. Los Angeles, you are the 2024 MLBC champions, forever.

AL MVP
EDDIE MURRAY

NL MVP
ALBERT PUJOLS

AL CY YOUNG
GERRIT COLE

NL CY YOUNG
SPENCER STRIDER

POSTSEASON HONORS

PLAYOFF AWARDS

PLAYOFF MVP • WALKER BUEHLER

LAD • official MLBC Statbook award

RUNNER-UP • AARON JUDGE

NYN • official MLBC Statbook runner-up

WORLD SERIES AWARDS

WORLD SERIES MVP • WALKER BUEHLER

LAD • official MLBC Statbook award

RUNNER-UP • TREYA TURNER

LAD • official MLBC Statbook runner-up

PENNANTS & CHAMPIONSHIP

AMERICAN LEAGUE CHAMPION
NEW YORK YANKEES

NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPION
LOS ANGELES DODGERS

2024 MLBC WORLD SERIES CHAMPION
LOS ANGELES DODGERS