

AROUND THE LEAGUE · GAME RECAP

Petco Park

MIL @ SDP

RECAP

Petco Park

TALKING POINTS

- **Final:** MIL 3, SD 1 at Petco Park on Oct 7, 2026. Aaron Ashby (W) and Trevor Megill (S) closed out a 3-1 NLDS win for Milwaukee; Robbie Ray took the loss. Milwaukee out-hit San Diego 10-3.
- **The swing:** Garrett Mitchell's 5th-inning triple plus Jackson Chourio's two-out single off rookie Bradgley Rodriguez produced the go-ahead run, charged to Ray as his runner. It stood as the game-winner until Cooper Pratt's double and Sal Frelick's sac fly added insurance in the 6th.
- **The read:** Milwaukee's bullpen threw 5.0 hitless innings (Ashby 3.0, Abner Uribe 1.0, Megill 1.0) with 6 strikeouts, and the Brewers did not strike out through six innings (27 plate appearances) on a night San Diego got just three hits and one extra-base knock.

MIL	PREVIEW RECAP	SDP
Petco Park TEAM 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-R-H-E · MIL 0-0-1-0-1-1-0-0-0-3-10-1		
The swing: Garrett Mitchell's 5th-inning triple plus Jackson Chourio's two-out single off rookie Bradgley Rodriguez produced the go-ahead run, charged to Ray as his runner. It stood as the game-winner until Cooper Pratt's double and Sal Frelick's sac fly added insurance in the 6th.		
STORYLINE	Line:	1-for-3, HR, BB, R, RBI. Game-tie in the 3rd off lefty Robert Gasser, 429 feet, 110.6 mph, 27 degrees LA, xBA 1.000.
STORYLINE	Postseason chart:	his 8th career postseason HR, 2nd-most by a Padre since pitch tracking began in 2005, one behind Manny Machado's franchise-leading nine. It is his 2nd HR of this 2026 postseason (first Sept 29 vs the Cubs).
STORYLINE	Season grain:	the homer was his 25th regular-season HR of 2026, the 9th verified Padres player-season at 25+ HR, after Machado's 30 and Merrill's 26 in 2026 and Machado's 27 in 2025. It was his 67th career regular-season HR at Petco Park.
STORYLINE	On-base run:	his walk extended a 21-game on-base streak; he entered the Division Series on a 20-game streak, 4th-longest active in MLB.
STORYLINE	Hardest out:	his 113.9 mph 5th-inning groundout was the hardest-hit ball of the game, 1.8 mph shy of his 2026 season max.
STORYLINE	Line:	2-for-4, 3B, R, RBI. Singled in Frelick in the 3rd for the game's first run, tripled in the 5th and scored the winner.
STORYLINE	History:	the triple is the 8th in Brewers postseason history and the first since Caleb Durbin on Oct 16, 2025 (NLCS at Los Angeles); it is Mitchell's first career postseason triple. It ended his 9-game extra-base-hit drought and a 12-game RBI drought.
STORYLINE	Glove:	robbed Machado of a 406-foot, 106.7 mph drive in the 8th, xBA 0.960, a ball the board says would have left 19 ballparks.
STORYLINE	Season:	2026 career highs in games (145), HR (11) and RBI (65); +7 OAA in center field.
RARITY	Line:	W, 3.0 IP, 0 H, 0 ER, 2 BB, 3 K. Nine-pitch 1-2-3 fifth.
RARITY	Career:	first career postseason win after nine prior October appearances (2021, 2024, 2025, two earlier in this series) produced none.
RARITY	Season:	career highs of 75 games, 89.1 IP and 116 K; 32.1% whiff rate ranked 35th of 424 arms with 40+ IP; curveball held hitters to a .132 average with a 61.8% strikeout rate and 52.4% whiff, 2nd among 300-plus-curveball pitchers behind Tyler Glasnow's 53.2%.
RARITY	Tonight's heat:	sinker sat 98 to 99 mph, above the 97.7 mph average across his 826 offerings in 2026 (52.2% usage).
STORYLINE	Line:	S, 1.0 IP, 0 H, 0 ER, 0 BB, 2 K. Retired the side in order in the 9th.
STORYLINE	Career:	2nd career postseason save, both in this series (Oct 3, 2026 Game 1 and tonight). 81 career regular-season saves, 30 of them in 2026.
STORYLINE	Line:	1-for-4, 2B. First career postseason extra-base hit, a ground-rule double down the left-field line, xBA 0.130, setting up Milwaukee's third run.
STORYLINE	Glove:	his 4th-inning fielding error put Luis Campusano aboard with no consequence (Cronenworth struck out swinging); entering tonight he had 2 errors in his first 3 playoff games with .895 fielding, against 5 errors in 74 regular-season games (+1 OAA).
STORYLINE	Debut:	first career postseason appearance; MLB debut June 16, 2026.
STORYLINE	Line:	1-for-1, 3 BB, 1 R. Reached in all four plate appearances, his sixth game of 2026 with 3+ walks.
STORYLINE	Season:	26 HR, .874 OPS and 94 walks, the ninth-most walks in the majors. His -8 OAA is the shakiest glove in the Milwaukee group.
RECAP	Line:	GS, 4.0 IP, 3 H, 1 ER, 1 BB, 3 K. His two prior October outings (2025) came in relief.
RECAP	Season close:	1.67 ERA over his final five regular-season starts (27 IP, 5 ER).
RECAP	Personal angle:	came to Milwaukee from San Diego in the August 2022 Josh Hader trade; tonight was his first look at his old organization.
STORYLINE	Line:	GS, 3.0 IP, 3 H, 1 ER, 2 BB, 0 K. First career postseason outing outside a Dodgers uniform; all 19 prior October appearances (18 starts) came for Los Angeles from 2018 to 2024, carrying 114 career postseason strikeouts into it.
STORYLINE	Note:	3.0 innings were the shortest postseason start of his career, previous shortest 3.2 innings.
STORYLINE	B1, bases-loaded escape (0-0):	Machado bunt single, Merrill liner and Hays walk loaded them with two out; Joey Ortiz took the force at 3rd on Ty France's grounder, then Bogaerts popped to Bauers. No damage in Gasser's first postseason start, and Ortiz's +16 regular-season OAA is the range anchor behind it.
STORYLINE	T3, first run (MIL 1-0):	Frelick stole second, his 2nd career postseason steal in 16 playoff games, then scored on Mitchell's single to center. Without the steal, a single stays a single.
STORYLINE	T5, go-ahead (MIL 2-1):	Mitchell tripled to right and scored on Chourio's two-out single; the run was charged to Robbie Ray (his runner), which is why Ray carries the loss.
STORYLINE	B8, the biggest glove play (3-1):	Mitchell robbed Machado at xBA 0.960 with Tatis aboard, preserving the two-run cushion.
STORYLINE	6th, twin killing:	Ashby turned a 1-4-3 double play (Ashby to Turang to Bauers) to erase France, the 6th such twin killing of the 2026 postseason.
STORYLINE	Robbed:	Pratt took a 101 mph, 11-degree liner from Merrill (xBA 0.910) in the 3rd; Mitchell took Machado's 107 mph fly (xBA 0.960) in the 8th.
STORYLINE	Coin-flip shape:	Padres pitching allowed 4 lucky hits on weak contact while 5 outs were made on contact that graded as a hit at least half the time.
STORYLINE	Errors, DPs, steals:	MIL 1 error, SD 0; three double plays (two San Diego infield turns, 5-4-3 in the 2nd and 6-4-3 in the 3rd, both Cronenworth to France); no outfield assists, no caught stealing, no wild pitches or passed balls.
ROTATION	Milwaukee relief headline:	5.0 combined hitless innings, 0 H, 0 ER, 6 K. Uribe pitched around a Tatis walk in the 8th.
ROTATION	San Diego workload:	7 pitchers, the most the Padres have used in a postseason game since Oct 9, 2024 (also 7). Musgrove's 2.0 hitless was the only clean stretch.
ROTATION	Mason Miller:	pitched 1.0 inning (2 H, 0 ER, 1 BB, 1 K) after returning from the paternity list; owns the Padres single-season reliever strikeout record at 129 K with a 1.67 ERA over 70 innings in 2026.
ROTATION	Robbie Ray:	the 2021 AL Cy Young winner made his first postseason relief outing since 2022, 1.0 IP, 1 H, 1 ER, 1 BB.
TEAM METRICS	Hits:	MIL 10, SD 3. Milwaukee's 10 were 8 singles, 1 double and 1 triple, no home runs; San Diego's 3 were 2 singles plus Tatis's homer, the Padres' only extra-base hit and only run.
TEAM METRICS	Strikeouts:	MIL 3, fewest in a Brewers postseason game since Oct 5, 2011 vs Arizona (also 3), and fewest of this 2026 October after 6 and 8 in Games 1 and 2. San Diego struck out 9 times.
TEAM METRICS	Whiff-proof start:	27 plate appearances without a strikeout through six innings, the first team this October to reach the 6th with zero K. Only 3 of 4,858 MLB team games in the 2026 regular season finished with zero strikeouts (Boston Aug 17 vs Arizona, Cleveland Aug 13 vs Detroit, Tampa Bay Jun 26 vs Arizona).
TEAM METRICS	Hit milestone:	first Milwaukee 10-hit postseason game since Oct 6, 2025 vs the Cubs (11 hits).
TEAM METRICS	Padres floor:	3 hits are San Diego's fewest in a postseason game since Oct 11, 2024 vs the Dodgers (2); 1 run is its lowest of this 2026 postseason, after 8, 4, 2 and 3 in the first four October games.
TEAM METRICS	Defense by season grade:	Ortiz +16 OAA, Turang +15, Mitchell +7, Pratt +1, Bauers -8; Machado +12, France +8, Merrill +7, Tatis +4, Bogaerts +4, Cronenworth -4. Campusano graded -4.4 framing runs, and Milwaukee's lone steal-run came against him.
TEAM METRICS	Road split:	first Milwaukee postseason road win since Oct 15, 2018, Game 3 of the 2018 NLCS (4-0 at Dodger Stadium), snapping a 12-game road playoff losing streak and moving the club to 7-24 all-time in road postseason games.
RARITY	Tatis ranks:	8th career postseason HR, 2nd-most in Padres postseason history behind Machado's nine; the 9th verified Padres player-season at 25+ HR (priors: Machado 30 in 2026, Merrill 26 in 2026, Machado 27 in 2025); 67th career regular-season HR at Petco Park.
RARITY	Machado's small ball and near-miss:	his 1st-inning bunt single was the 3rd bunt hit of the 2026 postseason, after Trent Grisham on Sep 30 and teammate Samad Taylor on Oct 4, and the 2nd bunt hit of his postseason career. He sits at 399 career regular-season HR.
RARITY	Buehler's shortest:	3.0 innings, the shortest postseason start of his career, previous shortest 3.2 innings.
RARITY	Pratt and Salas:	postseason firsts for two debut-season rookies. Pratt's first career postseason appearance produced his first October extra-base hit; Ethan Salas (debuted Sept 2, 2026) caught with 16 career MLB regular-season games behind him.