

Game Breakdown

- Wild-Card Grudge Match:** San Diego (59-55) sits one game back of Arizona (60-54) for the NL's third wild-card spot; season series dead even at 4-4 entering tonight's fourth meeting of the set.
- Padres' Deadline Debut:** Casey Mize makes his first San Diego start after Monday's trade from Detroit – he brings a 2.70 ERA / 0.992 WHIP / .213 Opp AVG over 16 starts, with a 2.35 career ERA across two prior starts vs Arizona (7.2 IP, 11 K).
- Rookie-Lefty Counter:** Arizona answers with Mitch Bratt, a 22-year-old lefty with a 5.23 ERA and 6.68 BB/9 whose four-seam has been battered (.345 BA / .586 SLG against, 141 pitches).
- Bullpen Aces the Difference:** SDP's pen ranks 6th in MLB ERA (3.71) with a rested Mason Miller, while ARI's 4.15 unit leans on Paul Sewald's control but not his contact profile.
- Two-Strike Battle Looms:** Mize flips to his splitter 45% on 0-2 (34.5% whiff) against an Arizona order that is #1 in MLB at .184 AVG in 0-2 counts (392 AB).

It's strikes, a fastball/split/slider combo. He's got the out pitch, split-finger fastball that he can use to get righties and lefties out. He's a guy we've been scouting here for years. — A.J. Preller · AP · Aug 5, 2026

Team Identity – SDP

- Working – Second-Half Bats:** 9-3 over the last 14 games with a .292 AVG and 3.40 ERA in that window; 8-2 in the last 10 and #1 in MLB in 2nd-half batting AVG (.290).
- Working – Bullpen Bridge:** 3.71 bullpen ERA (6th best MLB) with 9.00 K/9 (8th best); Morejon has a 0.00 ERA over his last 6.0 IP and Matsui 0.00 over his last 7.1 IP.
- Working – Defensive Core:** +16 DRS with Ty France +7 OAA (1st best among 1B) and Xander Bogaerts +6 OAA at SS; club is 42-5 (89.4%) when leading after six.
- Working – Two-Out Clutch:** Campusano is #2 in MLB at .362 with two outs; club hits .266/.369/.422 (.791 OPS) with two outs and RISP.
- Not Working – Starter ERA:** 4.61 rotation ERA (5th worst MLB) – bullpen games covered three-fifths of the rotation for two weeks before Monday's deadline additions.
- Not Working – Power Droughts:** Tatis (12), Bogaerts (19), Cronenworth (21) and Sheets (27, with a T-6th best XBH drought at 25) are all cold from the yard; 0 HR in two road-trip games.
- Not Working – Framing:** -3.9 framing runs (9th worst MLB), with Campusano at -4.9.

Starting Pitcher – Casey Mize (SDP)

- Career-Best Season:** 16 starts with Detroit produced a 2.70 ERA / 0.992 WHIP, 158 ERA+, and career-bests in K rate (24.9%) and BB rate (5.6%) – 85 K vs 19 BB in 86.2 IP.
- The Trade Chapter:** Left the Tigers at the deadline after a groin injury cost time early; hasn't pitched since July 25 – a 6.0 IP, 1 ER no-decision vs KC – after being scratched from a July 31 start with the deadline looming.
- Road Profile:** Away split sits at 3.07 ERA / 1.10 WHIP over 8 starts (45 K in 41.0 IP) with 11 days of rust since July 25; he ranks 3rd among MLB starting pitchers in HR allowed per nine (0.520).
- Arsenal:** Season usage – four-seam 34.4% (93.4 mph), slider 26.2%, splitter 23.7% (34.5% whiff, .292 SLG vs); 66.0% first-pitch strikes with 56.0% zone on 0-0.
- Count-Specific:** With two strikes he flips to the splitter 45% on 0-2; in leverage counts the slider takes over (44% on 2-0, 38% on 3-2). [Watch: Mize's splitter putaway](#)
- Platoon Tonight:** Holds lefties to a .194 AVG / .507 OPS (193 PA) vs .237/.708 to righties; Arizona projects 6 right to 3 left, blunting that edge.

There was just a different energy, a little bit more energy. The guys brought it today – against a really good pitcher, one of the guys that's been pitching the best in the National League. — Craig Stammen · MLB.com · Aug 5, 2026

Bullpen – SDP

- Closer – Mason Miller:** 0.76 ERA, .807 WHIP (10th best MLB), 16.70 K/9 (2nd best MLB), 28-for-29 in saves – his 49.2% strikeout rate is the best among MLB relievers, and he's held RHB to a .100 AVG.
- Setup – Adrian Morejon:** 3.00 ERA with a 50.3% ground-ball rate (2nd best among MLB relievers) and a 0.00 ERA over his last 6.0 IP; 17 holds with only 9 of 31 inherited runners scoring.
- Lefty Bridge – Yuki Matsui:** 2.30 ERA with a .148 Opp AVG vs LHB and 0.00 ERA over his last 7.1 IP; he is #1 in MLB in opponent AVG in retractable-roof parks (.074) – a Chase Field edge tonight.
- Lefty Contact – Wandy Peralta:** 3.47 ERA but in a rough window – a 7.11 ERA and 1.74 WHIP over his last six appearances (6.1 IP), though the ground-ball profile has limited damage to one homer.
- Rookie – Bradgley Rodriguez:** 2.39 ERA with a 15.6 K/9 in the second half (3rd best MLB), but has stranded only 12 of 25 inherited runners (13 scored) – the softest spot on the bridge.
- Jeremiah Estrada:** 3.80 ERA and a .163 Opp AVG vs LHB (3rd-best MLB with his battery), but he's worked three straight days (15/10/7 pitches) with a 4.90 BB/9.
- Freshness at the Top:** Miller (30 pitches since Aug. 1), Bradgley Rodriguez (9 pitches Aug. 4) and Griffin Canning (7 pitches) all come in light; Estrada and Matsui carry the heaviest recent loads.

Lineup – ARI

- 1. Corbin Carroll (RF):** 98 career REG HR – 2 away from 100 – with a 1.072 OPS vs sliders league-wide (66 PA) against Mize's 26.2% slider; 2-for-4 career vs Mize. His .382 OPS vs splitters (85 pitches) is the one hole against Mize's 23.7% splitter putaway, 0-for-9 in this series.
- 2. Geraldo Perdomo (SS):** 14.7% BB% (8th best MLB) with a 12.0% K% (9th best MLB) and the 5th-best whiff rate in MLB; owns a .231 OPS vs splitters league-wide (73 pitches) – the precise hole Mize's splitter (34.5% whiff) targets with two strikes. Five-game hit streak with 17 SB.
- 3. Ketel Marte (2B):** The three-time All-Star is in a down year (.752 OPS) with a 15-game HR drought (last homer July 8 vs PHI) – and owns a .399 OPS vs four-seams league-wide (46 PA), the pitch Mize throws 34.4% of the time.
- 4. Gabriel Moreno (DH):** Back from paternity leave with a .298/.380/.438 slash – reached base in 40 straight starts (passing Jay Bell's 39 for second-longest in franchise history); #1 in MLB at .453 opp-field AVG vs RHP and #1 pitcher-ahead AVG at .336 (130 PA).
- 5. Nolan Arenado (3B):** .973 OPS vs four-seams league-wide (114 PA) against Mize's most-thrown pitch, but .580 vs changeups (42 PA) – the splitter family he's struggled with; on a 2-game hit streak with a homer last night. Home OPS .833 vs .683 road.
- 6. James McCann (C):** The hottest bat in the building – .968 OPS vs RHP (58 PA) with all 4 homers off righties, a 10-game hit streak, and a 1.553 OPS with RISP (29 PA); his 42.5% chase meets Mize's 66.0% first-pitch strikes in the widest-swing collision of the night.
- 7. Ryan Waldschmidt (LF):** 1.167 OPS vs sliders league-wide (26 PA, 5th best MLB) against Mize's 26.2% slider; hits .351 AVG / .872 OPS at Chase Field (79 PA) vs .229 on the road – but .689 OPS vs RHP (127 PA) is the side he draws tonight.
- 8. Tim Tawa (1B):** Owns the April 26 Mexico City grand slam vs San Diego (100.1 mph off a 97.2 mph sinker); 1.007 OPS vs sinkers league-wide (37 PA) is his power pitch, but his two soft spots – sliders (.471, 26 PA) and four-seams (.476, 44 PA) – are Mize's top two offerings. 3-for-8 with a HR vs SDP in this series.
- 9. Max Kepler (LF):** 2-for-11 (12 PA) career vs Mize – the only projected ARI bat with real history against him; .614 OPS vs RHP (89 PA) meets Mize's .194/.507 lefty split. 44.9% hard-hit rate says the barrel is there; 12-game HR drought says it hasn't landed.

All Things to Watch

- Mize's Two-Strike Weapon:** Splitter (23.7% season usage, 87.9 mph) carries a 34.5% whiff rate and .292 SLG against; he goes to it 45% on 0-2 and leans slider in leverage counts (44% on 2-0, 38% on 3-2).
- Bratt's Punished Heater:** Four-seam (38.1% season usage, 91.6 mph, 141 pitches) has allowed a .345 BA / .586 SLG with just a 9.9% whiff rate – the pitch batters are squaring up all season.
- Machado vs the Fastball:** Manny Machado carries a 1.049 OPS vs four-seamers league-wide (142 PA) with a 10.8% barrel rate; Bratt's heater has been hit for a .586 SLG.
- France's Slider Edge:** Ty France owns a 1.026 OPS vs sliders league-wide (38 PA) and 11.0% barrels; Bratt's slider (12.4% usage) has a 28.6% whiff.
- Waldschmidt's Slider Damage:** Ryan Waldschmidt has a 1.167 OPS vs sliders league-wide (26 PA, 5th best MLB) – against Mize's 26.3%-usage slider.
- The Rested Ninth:** Mason Miller hasn't pitched since Aug. 1 (30 pitches), owns a 0.76 ERA and 16.70 K/9 (2nd best MLB), with a 0.00 ERA and 0.35 WHIP over his last five appearances.
- Garcia's Inherited-Runner Perfection:** Brandyn Garcia has stranded all 17 inherited runners (0/17 IRS) with a #1 9th-inning Opp AVG of .032 – the stopper regardless of inning.
- ABS Challenge Edge:** Arizona is 67.6% on pitching/defense challenges (2nd best MLB) with a +29.9 net vs expected (5th best); San Diego hitters are 44.2% (7th worst) with a -8.0 net.

Team Identity – ARI

- Working – Two-Strike Discipline:** #1 in MLB with a .184 AVG in 0-2 counts (392 AB) plus a .175 two-strike AVG (9th best MLB) – a full-count machine drawing 175 walks in 394 AB (.763 OPS).
- Working – Defense:** +18 DRS / +29 OAA with Corbin Carroll (+9 OAA, 1st best among RF) and Geraldo Perdomo (+9 OAA, 8th best among SS) anchoring the unit.
- Working – Control:** Staff walks almost nobody – 2.9 BB/9 (3rd best MLB) – and the pen owns the 2nd-best BB/9 in baseball (3.04).
- Working – Catcher Batting:** #1 in MLB at .280 AVG as catcher – Moreno (.298/.380/.438) plus a red-hot McCann (.560 AVG / 1.553 OPS with RISP, 29 PA).
- Not Working – Bullpen ERA:** 4.15 unit (18th MLB) and 7.70 K/9 (5th worst MLB); ex-closer Sewald owns a 6.28 ERA and 15.9% barrel rate allowed.
- Not Working – Power Ceiling:** 7.0% barrel rate (6th worst MLB) and .706 OPS (9th worst MLB) – no hitter on the club clears even 17 HR.
- Not Working – vs Righties:** .229 AVG / .674 OPS vs RH starters – a steep drop from the .281 lefty mark – against tonight's right-handed Mize.

Starting Pitcher – Mitch Bratt (ARI)

- Rookie Lefty, Control Eroded:** 5.23 ERA / 1.839 WHIP / .284 Opp AVG with a 6.68 BB/9 across 20.2 IP – the walk rate has tripled from his minor-league mark (4.2% in 2025).
- Punished Four-Seam:** His 38.1%-usage fastball (91.6 mph, 141 pitches) has allowed a .345 BA / .586 SLG with a 9.9% whiff rate and shows in the homer column (1.74 HR/9, 49.3% fly-ball rate).
- Slurve Is the Putaway:** 26.8% season usage at 80.1 mph with a 26.8% whiff rate (99 pitches); sinker (10.0% usage, 91.2 mph) has allowed a .900 SLG across 37 pitches with zero whiffs.
- Best Start Came Last:** In his most recent outing (July 31 vs CLE), he threw 5.0 innings with 3 hits and 1 ER – a career-high workload and his second straight 5.0-inning start.
- Left-Handed Crater:** Against LHB he's allowed a .345 AVG / 1.091 OPS in 30 PA (vs .250/.822 vs RHB) – against a San Diego order that stacks lefty/switch bats in the top two-thirds.
- Delivery:** Releases from a low three-quarter slot (34.9° ball angle on 370 measured pitches) – a flat, near-sidearm angle hitters see well.
- Velo Landmarks:** Four-seam 91.6 mph, sinker 91.2 mph, slider 86.7 mph – the fastball family sits in the low-90s. [Watch: Bratt's slurve whiff](#)
- The Trade-Circle Twist:** Bratt was the centerpiece return when Arizona dealt Merrill Kelly to Texas last July – and Kelly re-signed with the D-backs this winter.

Bullpen – ARI

- Closer – Paul Sewald:** 24-for-27 in saves with a 2.10 BB/9 and 10.20 K/9, but the 6.28 ERA traces to a 15.9% barrel rate (bottom 1st percentile), .534 SLG allowed and 43% hard-hit; tougher on righties (.161 Opp AVG) than lefties (.279).
- Stopper – Brandyn Garcia:** 2.03 ERA, .774 WHIP (7th best league), 3-of-3 saves and 13 holds – he has stranded all 17 inherited runners (0/17 IRS) with a #1 9th-inning Opp AVG of .032.
- K-Arm – Juan Morillo:** 2.54 ERA, 1.000 WHIP, 10.80 K/9 with a #2 Opp AVG of .051 against the top two lineup spots; 14 holds.
- Bridge – Taylor Clarke:** 2.12 ERA, .824 WHIP without big strikeout numbers (4.80 K/9) and a #2 8th-inning Opp AVG of .091; 12 holds.
- Kevin Ginkel:** 3.04 ERA with a #1 Opp AVG of .138 when catching with James McCann behind the dish – the freshest high-leverage arm (no outing since Aug. 1, 25 pitches).
- Workload Flags:** Sewald (19) and Loáisiga (12) both threw Tuesday Aug. 4, leaving Ginkel as the most rested late-inning option; Loáisiga shows an extreme .156 vs RHB / .314 vs LHB split.

Lineup – SDP

- 1. Xander Bogaerts (SS):** .646 OPS with a .326 SLG (10th worst MLB) but the patience anchor – 23.9% chase, 11.8% BB% – and he's hit .333 in the second half; own a .578 OPS vs sliders (45 PA) and .367 vs changeups (34 PA) league-wide, both Bratt secondaries.
- 2. Jackson Merrill (CF):** The hottest Padres bat – 1.046 OPS over the last 14 days (+.355 offseason) with a 21-for-62 (.339), 6-HR post-break surge; own a 1.119 OPS vs sinkers league-wide (61 PA) against Bratt's 10.0%-usage sinker that has allowed a .900 SLG. His 36.8% chase is the highest among profiled Padres regulars.
- 3. Fernando Tatis Jr. (RF):** 26 SB (7th best MLB) with a 52.7% hard-hit rate (6th best NL) but a flat 4.1° launch angle producing just 8 HR; .413 AVG / 1.008 OPS in Late & Close (74 PA) vs .379 when behind in the count. Riding an active 12-game HR drought.
- 4. Manny Machado (3B):** 392 career REG HR – 8 away from 400 and already the Padres' all-time franchise HR leader; 1.049 OPS vs four-seams league-wide (142 PA) against the exact pitch Bratt throws 38.1% of the time. Brought 3-for-5 with 4 RBI in last night's 9-4 win. [Watch: Machado vs the heater](#)
- 5. Ty France (1B):** Career-best .523 SLG with an 11.0% barrel rate; 1.026 OPS vs sliders league-wide (38 PA) and .992 vs changeups (38 PA, 9th best MLB) – 3 HR from 100 career (97). 0-for-8 in this series with an active 11-game HR drought, but carries a 23-game hard-hit (95+ mph) streak.
- 6. Gavin Sheets (DH):** .998 OPS with RISP (83 PA) is the club's engine, but .483 OPS vs LHP (67 PA, 0 HR) is the platoon wall tonight – riding a 27-game HR drought (T-82nd longest active MLB) and 25-game XBH drought (T-6th longest MLB).
- 7. Luis Campusano (C):** .924 OPS leads the projected order with a 12-game on-base streak (T-11th MLB) and #2 MLB two-out AVG (.362); .910 OPS vs sinkers (27 PA) and .884 vs four-seams (35 PA) league-wide – the two pitches Bratt throws most.
- 8. Jake Cronenworth (2B):** Mired in a 21-game HR drought (last homer July 7 vs ARI) with a .481 OPS vs LHP this season; owns a .546 OPS vs sinkers (41 PA) league-wide – the board soft spot against Bratt's 10.0% sinker.
- 9. Freddy Fermin (C/DH):** Carries a four-game hit streak (8-for-22, .364 over his last seven) and rakes on the first pitch (.370 AVG / 1.098 OPS, 32 PA), but owns a .304 OPS vs sliders league-wide (28 PA) – the one pitch that's beaten him all year.

I understand the unwritten rules of baseball and that's a thing. And at the same time, I'm just trying to get on base and help the team and gain some momentum. – Tim Tawa · AP · Aug 2, 2026

- **Bench – Ildemaro Vargas (IF):** 196 career REG RBI – 4 away from 200 – with a 9.7% K rate and a 59-game HR drought (8th best of 653, last HR May 12 vs TEX); .622 OPS vs RHP is the weakest platoon number of the profiled bats.
- **Bench – Tyler Locklear (1B):** Fresh righty bat on a 1-for-12 slide since a 3-RBI breakout July 23 vs STL; his only usable sample is .781 OPS vs RHP (26 PA) – the side Mize throws from.
- **Bench – Jorge Barrosa (OF):** Switch-hitter with a .335 two-strike OPS (87 PA) and .522 OPS as LHB vs RHP (97 PA) – against a starter who gets ahead 66% of the time; +5 OAA in CF is the safety net.
- **Not in lineup – Philip Abner (RP):** Rookie lefty called up for length (6.75 ERA, 5 K in limited IP) – every plate appearance vs Mize would be a first look.
- **Career vs SDP (team):** 4-4 in the season series; the club is 32-23 at Chase Field with a .734 home OPS.

Streaks & Milestones

- **Machado's 400 Chase:** 392 career REG HR – 8 away from 400; MLB career REG rank #65 and already SDP franchise #1 (217 as a Padre, 54 clear of Nate Colbert's 163). [Watch: Machado's franchise HR record](#)
- **Carroll's 100 Watch:** 98 career REG HR – 2 away from 100; next above on the ARI franchise list is Matt Williams (99, #10) and Monte Irvin (99, #1035) on the MLB career list.
- **France Near the Century:** 97 career REG HR – 3 away from 100, with Danny Espinosa (98) next above; owns two grand slams this season – June 19 at TEX, July 19 at KC.
- **Vargas's 200 RBI:** 196 career REG RBI – 4 away from 200; ARI franchise career rank #60 with Danny Bautista (197) next above.
- **Merrill's Post-Break Tear:** 21-for-62 (.339) with 6 HR since the All-Star break; riding a 4-game hit streak with a 1.046 last-14 OPS – the biggest positive delta (+.355) of any heating-up bat in this matchup.
- **McCann's Tear:** 10-game hit streak (season best) since returning from a quad strain – 18-for-35 (.514) with 4 HR and 15 RBI over nine games; 1.553 OPS with RISP (29 PA).
- **Campusano's On-Base Run:** Active 12-game on-base streak (T-11th MLB) with a .924 OPS leading the Padres' projected order.
- **Tatis's HR Drought:** Active 12-game HR drought (last homer July 21 at ATL); 26 SB is a career renaissance on the bases.
- **Cronenworth's Drought:** 21-game HR drought with his last homer July 7 vs ARI – bookended by the same club.
- **Sheets's Power Vacuum:** 27-game HR drought (T-82nd longest active MLB) plus a 25-game XBH drought (T-6th longest MLB).
- **Vargas's Epic Drought:** 59-game HR drought (8th best of 653) – the longest active on the Diamondbacks, last homer May 12 vs TEX.
- **Moreno's Franchise Streak:** Reached base in 40 straight starts through late July – passing Jay Bell's 39 for the second-longest on-base streak in franchise history.
- **Tawa's Hard-Hit Consistency:** Active 19-game hard-hit (95+ mph) streak after snapping an 0-for-21 skid on Aug 2 at CLE.

On This Day

- **Aug 5, 2025:** SDP 10, ARI 5 – Lourdes Gurriel hit 2 HR in a series echo.
- **Aug 5, 2016:** MIL 2, ARI 3 – Yasmany Tomas hit 2 HR for Arizona.
- **Aug 5, 2011:** SDP 15, PIT 5 – Chase Headley drove in 5 for San Diego.
- **Aug 5, 1929:** DET 5, MIN 21 (MLB-wide) – Buddy Myer went 4-for-4 with 1 HR and 7 RBI.

Last Meeting & Recent Highlights

- **August 4, 2026 – SDP 9, ARI 4:** Manny Machado 2-for-5 with 4 RBI; Jackson Merrill 2-for-5, 2 RBI; Jake Cronenworth 2-for-5, 1 RBI. Arizona's runs came on James McCann and Nolan Arenado homers (2-for-4 each, 2 RBI apiece); Geraldo Perdomo added 2 hits. Season series dead even at 4-4 through eight games.
- **August 3, 2026:** Tim Tawa went 3-for-4 with 3 RBI against San Diego in Arizona's 5-1 win.
- **August 2, 2026:** Jackson Merrill homered with 2 RBI against San Francisco; Arizona scored 12 runs in a 12-8 win over Cleveland – Perdomo 2-for-6 with 3 RBI, McCann 2-for-4 with 2 RBI, Carroll 2 hits including a homer and 3 RBI, Arenado 2 hits including a homer.
- **August 1, 2026:** Jake Cronenworth walked off the Giants 6-5; Ty France went 3-for-4 in the same game.

Staff & Front Office

- **Craig Stammen (SDP Manager):** 59-55 in his 1st MLB managerial season (since 2026) – "a connector" in the clubhouse, per the room around Gavin Sheets, and a man whose deadline additions were a direct shot at the bullpen-game roulette that defined July.
- **A.J. Preller (SDP President of Baseball Operations & GM):** Acquired Casey Mize (Tigers) and Robbie Ray (Giants) plus Gage Workman in the final hours of Monday's window – no active-roster players surrendered.

We're trying to win. We don't apologize for it. We're trying to win championships. We're trying to get to the postseason and do it year after year. – A.J. Preller · CBS Sports · Aug 4, 2026

- **Torey Lovullo (ARI Manager):** 60-54 in his 10th MLB managerial season (since 2017); 10th season with ARI – pulled Sewald from the ninth after two blown saves in three chances this month.
- **Mike Hazen (ARI GM):** Tried to acquire starting pitching at the deadline but came up short; counting on the returns of Michael Soroka (rehab: 1 run over 4.0 IP at Triple-A Reno), Corbin Burnes (Tommy John recovery) and Justin Martinez (elbow) to fill the gaps.

Obviously, we're expecting a lot of those guys to come back. [Justin Martinez] should be back here shortly, and [Michael] Soroka is going to be back shortly. And then getting those other guys, as we move through August and September. – Mike Hazen · Arizona Diamondbacks on SI · Aug 3, 2026

- **Ruben Niebla (SDP Pitching Coach/Associate Manager):** The architect behind the rotation-reinforcement push and the bridge to Miller.

- ****Returned from Tuesday's foot scare (X-rays negative).** [Watch:** Bogaerts' patient AB](#)

Special. Outside the field, in the field. I learned a lot from him. – Freddy Fermin, on Salvador Perez · MLB.com · Jul 19, 2026

- **Bench – Jase Bowen (OF):** Rookie with the steepest swing on the club (20.7° attack angle) and a 43.3% chase rate against a 36.1% K%; lone career HR came July 31 vs SFG off a lefty – same hand as Bratt.
- **Bench – Gage Workman (IF):** 40-PA sample of extreme all-or-nothing – 2 HR among 6 hits with 0 walks and a 42.5% K%; carries a matching 13-game HR and RBI drought into tonight.
- **Bench – Sung-Mun Song (OF):** Patient rookie with 11 SB and a .918 RISP OPS, but just 11 career PA vs LHP and a .340 two-strike OPS (61 PA) – Bratt's slurve is the count test.
- **Not in lineup – Kyle Hart (RP):** The long man has been lights-out – 0.00 ERA over 8.2 IP across his last four outings.
- **Career vs ARI (team):** 4-4 in the season series; the four-game set in Phoenix sits at one apiece after Tuesday's 9-4 win.

Matchups & Splits

- **Mize vs ARI Two-Strike:** The league's best 0-2-count hitting team (.184 AVG, 392 AB) faces the righty who throws 66.0% first-pitch strikes and flips to his splitter 45% on 0-2.
- **Mize's Lefty Dominance:** .194 AVG / .507 OPS vs LHB (193 PA) with a 25.4% K rate – against Carroll, Kepler and Barrosa from the left side.
- **Bratt's Left-Handed Crater:** .345 AVG / 1.091 OPS allowed vs LHB (30 PA) – San Diego stacks Merrill, Cronenworth, Sheets, Song and the switch-hitting Rengifo in the top two-thirds.
- **Machado vs the Heater:** 1.049 OPS vs four-seams (142 PA) and 1.114 vs cutters (25 PA) league-wide – against Bratt's most-thrown pitch that has been hit for a .586 SLG.
- **Merrill vs the Sinker:** 1.119 OPS vs sinkers league-wide (61 PA) and .854 vs sliders (55 PA) – both pitches Bratt leans on, including a sinker that has allowed a .900 SLG.
- **France's Slider Edge:** 1.026 OPS vs sliders (38 PA) and .992 vs changeups (38 PA, 9th best MLB) – the pitch families Bratt uses for his swing-and-miss.
- **Carroll vs the Slider:** 1.072 OPS vs sliders league-wide (66 PA) against Mize's 26.2% slider – the single biggest pitch-level edge in the Arizona order.
- **Perdomo's Splitter Hole:** .231 OPS vs splitters league-wide (73 pitches) – the exact pitch Mize throws as his 23.7%-usage putaway with a 34.5% whiff rate.
- **Cronenworth's Soft Spot:** .546 OPS vs sinkers league-wide (41 PA) and .263 vs changeups (27 PA, 9th worst league) – Bratt's sinker has allowed a .900 SLG.
- **Sheet's Platoon Wall:** .483 OPS vs LHP (67 PA, 0 HR) – the club's toughest lefty matchup, and Bratt is a lefty; RISP engine (.998 OPS, 83 PA) is the counterweight.

Cool Stats & Storylines

- **Mize vs Arizona All-Time:** Has faced Arizona exactly twice in his career – 7.2 IP, a 2.35 ERA, 0-0 with 11 strikeouts – one of the smallest career samples he owns against any NL club.
- **Machado vs Arizona Career:** 23 career REG HR vs Arizona in 114 games (429 AB) – 9 of them at Chase Field – and came in 3-for-5 with 4 RBI in last night's 9-4 win.
- **Bratt's First Look:** MLB debut June 24, 2026 – has never faced the Padres entering tonight's first career look.
- **Rengifo's Reverse Arc:** One of the league's coldest bats in May (.217) became one of its hottest in July (.385, 7th best MLB) – a .352 AVG in the second half (15th-best MLB).
- **Bogaerts's Lineup Journey:** Was dropped to the No. 8 spot in late July – his first time batting that low since May 20, 2015 – and is back in the middle of this projected order tonight.
- **Moreno's Paternity Return:** Back in the lineup two days after the birth of daughter Gianna, batting fourth as the DH after missing Aug 3-4.
- **Sewald's Contact Damage:** Pairs a 2.10 BB/9 with a 15.9% barrel rate (bottom 1st percentile) – the league's worst-contact closer profile against a San Diego order hitting .290 in the second half.
- **Kepler's Postseason Limbo:** Ineligible for the postseason under MLB's performance-enhancing-drug rules even if Arizona advances – contributing to a push he cannot finish.

Betting Lines & Props

- **Moneyline:** San Diego -135 / Arizona +120 – the road favorite by a nose despite trailing by one game on W-L, leaning on the 8-2 last ten and deeper bullpen.
- **Total:** 8.5 – slightly shaded Over at -111, with Mize's 2.70 ERA and HR suppression (0.520 HR/9, 3rd best MLB) keeping the number parked.
- **Spread:** ARI +1.5 heavily backed at -144; SDP -1.5 pays +120 – a market expecting a close game more than a blowout.
- **Strongest Hit Line:** Gabriel Moreno 0.5 hits at -217 – 67.1% season clear rate, 70% L10, and a 1.05 hits-per-game average against the 0.5 number; the DH spot keeps him in the order all night.
- **Strongest Hit Line:** Xander Bogaerts 0.5 hits at -200 – 80% L5 and 70% L10 with a 0.78 average that clears the line in a majority of his 108 games.
- **Strongest Hit Line:** Luis Campusano 0.5 hits at -180 – 5-for-5 clearing across his last five (100% L5) with a 60.5% season rate.
- **Live HR Long Shot:** James McCann over 0.5 HR at +800 – homered in his last five (20% L5), owns a .968 OPS vs RHP with all four homers off righties, exactly the side Mize throws from.
- **Softest Hit Line:** Corbin Carroll 0.5 hits at -225 – 5-for-5 (20%) over his last five with a 0-0-0-2-0 run, even though the 61.8% season rate justifies the favorite tag long-term.

Umpire & ABS

- **Home-Plate Umpire – James Jean:** 3 years in MLB (since 2024); 16 HP games in 2026 with a 23.6% K rate (-4.1 vs league, hitter-leaning) and 12.9% BB (league avg); no ejections in 2026.
- **Zone Tendencies vs LHB:** Leans balls on inside (82% called K on takes, -9 pp vs league, n=82) and middle-in (84%, -13 pp, n=25) – left-handed hitters should expand with less fear of strikes.
- **Zone Tendencies vs RHB:** Leans balls on low (86% called K on takes, -6 pp, n=153) and low-away (81%, -9 pp, n=72) – righties get a generous low pitch.
- **Crew:** 1B Quinn Wolcott, 2B Ramon De Jesus, 3B Paul Clemons.
- **ABS Team Ledger:** Arizona is 67.6% on pitching/defense challenges (2nd best MLB) with a +29.9 net vs expected (5th best); San Diego hitters are 44.2% (7th worst) with a -8.0 net and 86 challenges (2nd worst MLB).
- **Catcher Duel:** Moreno has a 66.0% challenge success rate (+9.1 net for) and McCann 64.9% (+5.3); Fermin is at 48.2% (-15.1) with Campusano at 60.4% (-1.5) – factor the ABS ledger into every borderline call behind the dish tonight.