

Dodgers bullpen collapse infuriates Roberts, frustrates Díaz

BY GREG BEACHAM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Edwin Díaz is out of explanations and manager Dave Roberts is almost out of patience after the latest untimely meltdown by the Los Angeles Dodgers' problematic bullpen.

The Dodgers took a two-run lead into the ninth inning Thursday night with Díaz, the highest-paid closer in baseball, on the mound. The defending champions left one inning later with a 5-4 loss to the NL-leading Milwaukee Brewers, who wreaked havoc on Los Angeles' already beleaguered relief corps with a clutch three-run, five-hit rally.

Díaz (2-2) blew a save for the third time in his last four appearances for the Dodgers, giving up four consecutive one-out singles and three runs.

The normally imperturbable Roberts was clearly annoyed after this brutal loss in a game that would have pulled the Dodgers even with the Brewers atop the National League standings. Instead, Los Angeles has lost nine of 13.

When Roberts was asked whether Díaz would be allowed to continue to work through his struggles as



Mark J. Terrill/AP Photo

Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Edwin Díaz walks off the field after being taken out of the game during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers on Thursday in Los Angeles.

the closer, Roberts snapped: "Give me another option."

"I can't just say, 'Change (Díaz) to low leverage,'" Roberts added. "I have to have other options, and to be quite honest, none of those guys really have thrown the baseball great. That's just kind of the way it is."

That's the dilemma facing Roberts, whose bullpen doesn't currently contain a reliever he completely trusts. While the Dodgers' overall bullpen statistics aren't glaringly bad, Díaz's struggles and a series of poor performances in recent high-leverage situations have clearly taxed Roberts' problem-solving ability.

"You look back at the last week, and guys have

struggled," Roberts said. "I'm not going to sit here and play carousel and chase my tail ... when a guy is struggling, and then when he doesn't pitch well, then it's, 'Why are you pitching him?' I don't do that. Everyone has got a role. They all have jobs to do, and they all have to do their job. That's it."

The trumpets that herald Díaz's entrance into games have sounded more like a dirge lately while his ERA ballooned to 11.57. The three-time All-Star and longtime Mets closer has been frequently awful since returning late last month from a three-month absence for elbow surgery, giving up eight runs and 12 hits in only seven appearances.



Mark J. Terrill/AP Photo

Milwaukee Brewers' Jackson Chourio, right, scores on a single by Jake Bauers as Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Ben Rortvedt watches during the ninth inning of a baseball game on Thursday in Los Angeles.

"It's frustrating, because I know my ability," Díaz said. "I know what I can do on the mound. To not be able to do it (stinks). I've just got to come tomorrow and try to keep getting better."

Díaz realizes he could be in danger of losing his job as the Dodgers' closer.

"I've just got to see what they want to do," he said. "I want to do the best thing for the team. At the end of the day, if they give me the ball in the ninth, I will try to do my job. If they give me the ball in another inning, I will try to do my job. Got to get better, be consistent."

Despite Roberts' protestations, the clearest option to replace

Díaz is left-hander Tanner Scott, who earned 16 saves this season before Díaz returned. But Scott's miserable 2025 season is still top of many minds in Los Angeles, and his 2026 performance has mildly declined in recent weeks.

Roberts realizes he could consider a closer-by-committee plan, but that's also difficult when any choice will be concerning.

"We've got to get other guys on track to even have that be even a valid conversation, to be honest with you," Roberts said.

The bullpen's struggles are magnified because the Dodgers' talent-laden lineup hasn't blown out anyone

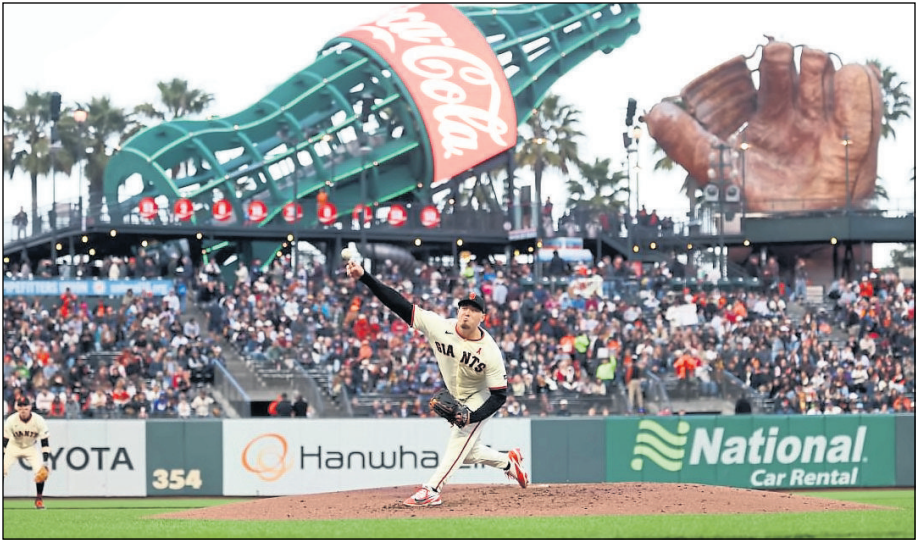
in weeks. Los Angeles has won just two games by more than two runs since July 19, repeatedly putting its relievers into perilous situations.

The Dodgers are trying to become the first NL team to win three straight World Series, and their fans still remember their team barely scraping through last season with a patchwork bullpen that finished 21st in the majors in ERA. In the postseason, LA improbably converted rookie starter Roki Sasaki into a closer.

Díaz was supposed to be the foundation of a return to a strong bullpen for the Dodgers, who hadn't had a stand-out closer for years. Instead, he's the central figure in another mess in mid-August.

Roberts is frustrated, but he's also got perspective.

"I know people don't want to hear it, but it's baseball," Roberts said. "Offenses go in lulls, and the bullpens go in lulls, and sometimes you get in a run where the starting pitching isn't there. It is what happens, and it just doesn't feel good. And it certainly is more highlighted when the 'pen doesn't throw the baseball well, because it costs you games."



Jed Jacobsohn/AP Photo

San Francisco Giants pitcher Blade Tidwell throws against the Houston Astros during the fourth inning of a baseball game in San Francisco on Monday.

San Francisco lands 2028 MLB All-Star Game

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
AP BASEBALL WRITER

SAN FRANCISCO — The All-Star Game is returning to San Francisco in two years.

Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred made the announcement Friday that the 2028 Midsummer Classic will be at Oracle Park, home of the San Francisco Giants. The 2007 game was played in the picturesque waterfront ballpark, featuring Hall of Famer Ichiro Suzuki's famous inside-the-park home run that bounced off the tricky wall in right-center field.

"With its passionate fanbase, world-class ballpark, and rich baseball history, San Francisco will be an outstanding host for All-Star Week, which culminates in one of Major League Baseball's best traditions, the Midsummer Classic," Manfred said in a statement.

"We look forward to bringing the excitement of All-Star Week and the celebration of baseball to the Bay Area."

This will mark another major sporting event for the Bay Area recently after the Super Bowl and World Cup this year and the NBA All-Star Game in February 2025.

The Giants will host the Midsummer Classic for a fourth time overall after Candlestick Park held the first All-Star Game of the 1961 season and also baseball's summer showcase in 1984.

Oracle Park is set to become the eighth active ballpark to hold the All-Star Game multiple times, joining Fenway Park in 1946, 1961 and 1999, Wrigley Field (1947, 1962, 1990), Angel Stadium (1967, 1989, 2010), Dodger Stadium (1980, 2022), Progressive Field (1997, 2019), Coors Field (1998, 2021) and T-

Mobile Park (2001, 2023).

Giants President and CEO Larry Baer said the club is "incredibly honored" and expressed his gratitude.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to showcase our organization, our city, and the incredible passion of our fans on baseball's biggest summer stage," he said in a statement.

"Hosting the All-Star Game is more than celebrating the game's brightest stars, it's a chance to highlight the people, neighborhoods, and culture that make our community so special. Few cities offer the unique combination of sports, culture, innovation, entertainment, and natural beauty that defines San Francisco. We look forward to welcoming players, families, fans, and visitors from around the world for a week that will create lasting memories and have a meaningful impact throughout our region."

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second round in 2014 on their way to an appearance in the national title game.

UK also defeated Wichita State in the second round in 2017.

Kentucky is once again expected to play one of

the most difficult overall schedules in college basketball after ranking in the top five nationally in strength of schedule in each of Pope's first two seasons. The 18-game SEC slate will tip off Jan. 2 at Oklahoma, and the league is expected to land a majority of its teams in the NCAA Tournament again next season.

The latest ESPN

Bracketology projections have 12 programs from the league in the March Madness field, led by Florida, which is expected to be the nation's preseason No. 1 team.

The Cats' season opener is set for Nov. 3 against Manhattan in Rupp Arena, with the team's first exhibition game coming against Little Rock on Oct. 16.

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
2026 PROPOSED TAX RATE
PUBLIC HEARING

The Fiscal Court of Christian County will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, August 25th, 2026 at 8:15 a.m. Central time and 9:15 a.m. Eastern time on the second floor of the Christian County Clerks's Office, located at 511 S Main Street, Hopkinsville, Kentucky, to obtain comments from the public regarding the proposed 2026 tax rates of Christian County, the Christian County Public Health District, the Christian County Agricultural Extension District, and the Christian County Soil Conservation District.

A. 2025 tax rate and revenue produced:

Christian County - Real	16.70 cents	\$ 8,570,253
Christian County - Tangible (Other than vehicle & watercraft)	18.70 cents	1,301,932
Motor Vehicle	11.60 cents	587,664
Watercraft	11.60 cents	12,266
Documented Watercraft	11.60 cents	-
Christian County Public Health District - Real	3.20 cents	1,642,204
Christian County Public Health District - Tangible, Watercraft, & Motor Vehicle	3.20 cents	389,542
Christian County Agricultural Extension District - Real	2.30 cents	1,180,334
Christian County Agricultural Extension District - Tangible	3.5 cents	243,677
Christian County Agricultural Extension District - Motor Vehicle and Watercraft	1.20 cents	62,061
Christian County Soil Conservation District	0.40 cents	205,275

B. Proposed 2026 tax rate and revenue expected from it:

Christian County - Real	16.70 cents	\$ 8,747,692
Christian County - Tangible (Other than vehicle & watercraft)	18.10 cents	1,326,041
Motor Vehicle	11.60 cents	604,665
Watercraft	11.60 cents	12,404
Documented Watercraft	11.60 cents	-
Christian County Public Health District - Real	3.20 cents	1,676,204
Christian County Public Health District - Tangible, Watercraft, Motor Vehicle, & Aircraft	3.20 cents	405,829
Christian County Agricultural Extension District - Real	2.30 cents	1,204,772
Christian County Agricultural Extension District - Tangible & Aircraft	3.50 cents	256,417
Christian County Agricultural Extension District - Motor Vehicle and Watercraft	1.20 cents	63,835
Christian County Soil Conservation District	0.40 cents	209,526

C. Compensating tax rate and revenue expected from it:

Christian County - Real	16.60 cents	\$ 8,695,311
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D. Revenue expected from new property:

Christian County	16.70 cents	\$ 43,924
Christian County Public Health District	3.20 cents	20,005
Christian County Agricultural Extension District	2.30 cents	6,049
Christian County Soil Conservation District	0.40 cents	1,052

E. General Government Expense and Protection to Persons and Property are the general areas to which revenue in excess of the revenue produced in 2026 is to be allocated.

F. The General Assembly has required publication of this advertisement and the information contained herein.