

DETROIT TIGERS GAME NOTES

WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS: 1935, 1945, 1968, 1984

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DETROIT TIGERS (0-0) AT CLEVELAND GUARDIANS (0-0)

Tuesday, September 30, 2025 • Progressive Field, Cleveland, OH • 1:08 p.m. ET

LHP Tarik Skubal (0-0, 0.00) vs. RHP Gavin Williams (0-0, 0.00)

A.L. Wild Card Game #1 • TV: ESPN • Radio: 97.1 FM/107.9 FM

LET'S GET WILD: The Detroit Tigers and Cleveland Guardians this afternoon begin their Best-of-Three Wild Card Series at Progressive Field ... the Tigers are in the playoffs for the second year in a row and the 18th time in franchise history ... the Tigers and Guardians meet in post-season play for a second-straight year as the Tigers took the Guardians to a winner-take-all Game 5 in the ALDS last year before bowing out ... Detroit swept Houston in the Wild Card Series a season ago.

- The Tigers are in the playoffs in back-to-back seasons for the first time since a four-year run from 2011-14 ... this marks just the fourth time ever that the Tigers have made the playoffs at least two seasons in a row, joining the aforementioned 2011-14, 1934-35 and 1907-09.
- The Tigers and Guardians had never met in the postseason until last year ... today marks the 32nd game between the clubs since the start of the 2024 season, which will be the most games played between any two clubs in all of baseball within this span of time.
- The Tigers went 87-75 this year, surpassing their total of 86 wins from a season ago ... the Tigers earned 87 wins for the first time in 11 years since winning 90 games in 2014 ... Detroit reached 86 wins in consecutive seasons for the first time since 2011-14.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?: Describing Detroit's path to the postseason as somewhat of a circuitous yet earned journey could be a bit of an understatement, as the club experienced the very best of times while also overcoming moments of angst at various points throughout the year.

- The Tigers this year woke up on May 1, June 1, July 1, August 1 and September 1 with the best or tied-for-the-best record in the A.L., a feat the franchise had previously done only thrice, including only two other times in the last 115 years: 1984, 1968, 1909.
- The Tigers were the first team in the majors to 30, 40, 50 and 60 wins this year for just the fifth-time ever, joining the 2006, 1984, 1961 and 1911 Tigers clubs ... thanks to Elias.
- The Tigers this year became just the sixth major league team in the last 20 seasons to reach 30, 40, 50 and 60 wins, joining the 2022 Yankees, 2019 Dodgers, 2015 Cardinals, 2009 Dodgers and 2006 Tigers ... thanks to Elias.
- Despite losing 12 of 13 games during a stretch surrounding the All-Star Break, the Tigers still had the best record in the A.L. on August 1 and were the first A.L. team to reach 80 wins, getting there on August 31 to run their record to 80-58 with one month to play.

SEPTEMBER MOURN: The Tigers then went 7-17 (.292) in September, the second-lowest winning percentage in the majors this month ahead of only the Rockies (4-21, .160) ... meanwhile, the Guardians led the majors with a 20-7 (.741) record in September, allowing them to leapfrog the Tigers and erase a deficit that stood at 10.5 games through August and 15.5 games through July 8.

- The Tigers finished September with a sub-.300 winning percentage for only the ninth time in franchise history, the first time since doing so three out of four years in 2017, 2019 and 2020.
- Detroit's .292 winning percentage in September is the lowest in that particular calendar month by a playoff qualifier dating back to when the World Series began in 1903.
- The Tigers lost 22 of their last 31 games starting August 24 ... Detroit went 28-41 in its last 69 games after going 59-34 in its first 93 games through July 8.
- The Tigers went 3-13 in their final 16 games to become the second team in major league history to lose 13 of their final 16 games yet still make the postseason, joining the 2000 Yankees, who also finished that season 87-75 ... they went on to win the World Series.

IT'S ABSOLUTELY GOOD FOR SOMETHING: Tarik Skubal turned in a 6.6 fWAR this season, according to Fangraphs, the best mark of any pitcher in all of baseball (Paul Skenes finished with a 6.5 fWAR) and behind only three best position players -- Aaron Judge (10.1), Cal Raleigh (9.1) and Bobby Witt, Jr. (8.0) -- for the best fWAR by any player in the A.L. ... Skubal finished 0.8-points ahead of the next closest A.L. pitcher -- Boston's Garrett Crochet (5.8) -- and wrapped up his campaign at least 1.8 points ahead of every other pitcher in the American League.

- Skubal's 6.6 fWAR finished well ahead of the 5.9 fWAR he totaled last year as part of his Triple Crown, unanimous Cy Young Award winning campaign.

WHAT AN ENCORE: Tarik Skubal this season set career bests with 195.1 innings pitched and 241 strikeouts, the 10th-highest single-season total in franchise history ... Skubal led the A.L. in bWAR, fWAR, ERA+, FIP, WHIP, BB/9 IP and K/BB ratio ... his 0.89 WHIP and 7.30 K/BB ratio are the second-lowest single-season marks in franchise history.

A SEASON FOR THE AGES: Riley Greene finished with 31 doubles, 36 homers and 111 RBI, just the second Tiger in the 125-season history of the franchise to reach those numbers in his age-24-or-younger season, joining Hank Greenberg in 1935 (46 doubles/36 homers/168 RBI) ... Greene (2025), Greenberg (1935, 1937, 1940) and Miguel Cabrera (2008, 2010, 2012) own the only seven individual seasons in the history of the franchise that reach those totals, regardless of age.

- Only five other major leaguers in the past 20 years reached Riley's 2025 totals in their age-24-or-younger season: Rafael Devers (BOS, 2021), Cody Bellinger (LAD, 2019), Nolan Arenado (COL, 2015), Mike Trout (LAA, 2014) and Prince Fielder (MIL, 2007).
- Overall, Greene is the second Tigers left-handed hitter to reach 36 homers in the past 50 years, the first in the last 40 years when Darrell Evans slugged 40 bombs in 1985 ... Greene is the first Tigers lefty to reach 36 homers and 111 RBI since Norm Cash in 1961 (41 HR, 132 RBI).

POST-SEASON PROWESS: On the Tigers Wild Card Series roster, 12 position players and nine pitchers have post-season experience ... only Dillon Dingler, Jahmai Jones, Casey Mize, Troy Melton and Kyle Finnegan lack said experience, a stark contrast from last year.

- Tommy Kahnle leads Tigers pitcher with 27 playoff relief outings while Jack Flaherty leads with nine post-season starts.
- Gleyber Torres (45 playoff games) and Javier Baez (36 games) lead Tigers position players in post-season experience ... eight Tigers position players this year appeared in all seven of Detroit's playoff games a season ago.

TIGERS VS. GUARDIANS

2025 Record: 5-8
2025 at Home: 1-6
2025 at Cleveland: 4-2
All-Time Record: 1164-1162-12
All-Time at Home: 630-528-5
All-Time at Comerica Park: 109-116
All-Time at Cleveland: 534-635-7
All-Time at Progressive Field: 105-159

2025 Game Log

Date	Site	Result	Winner/Loser/Save
5/22	DET	L0-7	Bibee-Flaherty
5/23	DET	L1-3	Cecconi-Jobe-Clase
5/24	DET	L5-7	Herrin-Haniffee
5/25	DET	W5-0	Skubal-Allen
7/4	CLE	W2-1	Holton-Cecconi-Vest
7/5	CLE	W1-0	Mize-Allen-Kahnle
7/6	CLE	W7-2 (10)	Lee-Smith (HOF)
9/16	DET	L5-7 (10)	Smith-Vest
9/17	DET	L0-4	Williams-Flaherty
9/18	DET	L1-3	Bibee-Melton-Gaddis
9/23	CLE	L2-5	Williams-Skubal-Smith
9/24	CLE	L1-5	Bibee-Flaherty
9/25	CLE	W4-2	Hurter-Messick-Vest

TIGERS AT A GLANCE

Overall	87-75
Current Streak	L1
At Comerica Park	46-35
On the Road.....	41-40
At Neutral Sites.....	0-0
Day games	37-27
Night games	50-48
Series Record.....	29-22-1
Series at Home	16-10
Series on the Road.....	13-12-1
vs. RH starting pitchers	62-58
vs. LH starting pitchers	25-17
vs. AL East	19-12
vs. AL Central.....	30-22
vs. AL West	15-16
vs. NL East.....	4-11
vs. NL Central.....	8-10
vs. NL West.....	11-4
Tigers score first	61-23
Opponents score first	26-52
Scoring five-or-more runs.....	60-15
Scoring four-or-less runs.....	27-60
Extra innings	5-8
One-run games.....	21-12
Two-run games	15-14
Tigers get quality start	40-12
Tigers starter works 6+ innings.....	44-12
Lead after 6th/7th/8th inning	71-6/74-8/77-1
Trail after 6th/7th/8th inning	4-55/3-55/2-64
Tied after 6th/7th/8th inning	12-14/10-12/8-10
Tigers out hit opponent.....	64-13
Opponent out hits Tigers.....	19-54
Tigers and opponent have equal hits	4-8
Tigers hit a home run	64-37
Tigers do not hit a home run	23-38
Come-from-behind wins.....	29-35

DETROIT TIGERS @ CLEVELAND GUARDIANS

WILD CARD SERIES AT A GLANCE

Game 1

Tuesday, September 30 @ Cleveland - 1:08 p.m. ET
LHP Tarik Skubal vs.
RHP Gavin Williams
ESPN/97.1 FM/107.9 FM

Game 2

Wednesday, October 1 @ Cleveland - 1:08 p.m. ET
TBD vs. RHP Tanner Bibee
ESPN/97.1 FM/107.9 FM

Game 3 (if necessary)

Thursday, October 2 @ Cleveland - 1:08 p.m. ET
TBD vs. RHP Slade Cecconi
ESPN/97.1 FM/107.9 FM

#29 LHP TARIK SKUBAL (0-0, 0.00)