

Tommy Edman's versatility and dynamic skill set have made him a critical piece for the Los Angeles Dodgers this season. From lineup flexibility and defense to baserunning and platoon advantages, Edman offers manager Dave Roberts a unique weapon who can be deployed at various spots in the batting order and different defensive positions.

With Shohei Ohtani expected back in the lineup on September 23, according to MLB.com, the Dodgers are managing their roster carefully. Real-time team decisions around lineup construction factor in starter workloads, probable starters, and matchup-based batting slot assignments. Understanding why Edman is moved around so frequently involves examining these strategic layers.



The Importance of Lineup Flexibility

One of the Dodgers' greatest strengths is their ability to adapt their lineup in response to matchups, rest days, and game flow. Tommy Edman epitomizes the kind of player who thrives in such a flexible environment.

- **Versatility in Batting Order:** Edman can hit leadoff, near the top, or further down the order. This adaptability allows Roberts to create optimal run-scoring opportunities for the team.
- **Matchup-Based Slot Assignment:** Managers often assign Edman to face specific opposing starters based on handedness and platoon splits, maximizing his contact rate and baserunning impact.
- **Handling Starter Workloads:** When probable starters are confirmed or tentative late in the week, the batting order may shift accordingly, moving Edman up or down to balance run potential with lineup protection.

Confirmed Starter vs. Probable Starter Impacts

In modern MLB lineups, the notion of a "confirmed starter" is increasingly important. Verified starters influence rest day scheduling and lineup construction significantly, especially for players like Edman whose role can change depending on pitching matchups.

For example, if an opposing team confirms a right-handed starter, Edman — a switch-hitter with solid splits — may be slotted left-handed against that pitcher, providing a platoon advantage. Conversely, with a left-handed starter likely, the lineup may shift Edman into a different batting spot or even rest him, in favor of a better split option.

Starter Workloads and Pitch Count Context

Pitch count management shapes the strategic use of players like Edman in the lineup. As Dodgers' starters advance deeper into games at varying pitch counts, bullpen usage patterns emerge that influence offensive strategies early in the game.

- When starters are projected to go deep (high pitch counts), managers often emphasize early-inning offense, placing leading baserunners like Edman in prime positions.
- If probable starters have been inconsistent or are trending toward shorter outings, Edman's roles can shift to maximize aggressive baserunning early before the bullpen takes over.
- Edman's exceptional baserunning adds pressure on opposing pitchers, influencing pitch selection and defensive alignments, which managers exploit through lineup slot flexibility.

Lineup Construction and Rest Days

The Dodgers' depth allows for frequent rest days to keep key players fresh down <https://dodgerblue.com/dodgers-pregame-information-that-shapes-each-matchup/2026/09/24/> the stretch. Edman's positional flexibility makes him an ideal piece to fill gaps or provide a spark when others are resting.

1. **Positional Rotations:** Edman can cover multiple infield positions — second base, shortstop, or third base — enabling occasional rest without sacrificing defensive effectiveness.
2. **Batting Slot Adjustments:** Depending on lineup rotations, Edman might move from a top-of-order speed role to a middle-order contact presence.
3. **Maximizing Defense and Baserunning:** Managers lean on Edman in late innings for defensive substitutions and pinch-running opportunities.

Platoon Splits and Handedness: The Strategic Matchup Advantage

One of the main reasons Tommy Edman moves around the lineup relates to careful exploitation of platoon splits and handedness considerations.

Handedness Scenario Edman's Optimal Role Managerial Reason Opposing Right-Handed Starter Bats Left-Handed, Top 2 Spots Maximize platoon advantage to leverage contact and speed Opposing Left-Handed Starter Bats Right-Handed, Lower Order Balance lineup with other lefty hitters; conserve energy for baserunning Reliever Matchups (Mid-Late Innings) Pinch Runner/Defensive Sub Increase pressure on opponent with speed; improve defense

These platoon advantages contribute significantly to why Edman isn't fixed in one batting slot, but rather shifts depending on opponent, pitcher handedness, and game situation.

Why This Doesn't Involve Ticket or Betting Lines

It's important to clarify that this discussion of Tommy Edman's role involves baseball strategy and lineup management, not sports betting or ticket pricing. While tools like Oddstrader provide real-time offshore odds and

lines, they do not factor into managerial decisions related to lineup flexibility or player deployment.

Content focusing on lineup construction avoids pricing and betting lines completely, as these represent different domains. Instead, we rely on qualitative and quantitative baseball data: pitch counts, platoon splits, confirmed starters, and defensive value metrics.

Conclusion

Tommy Edman embodies the Dodgers' strategic adaptability with his unmatched lineup flexibility, defensive prowess, and baserunning threat. Managers move him throughout the batting order and on defense in response to confirmed starters, pitch counts, rest needs, and platoon considerations, all aimed at maximizing team run production and defensive solidity.

As the Dodgers push toward postseason play with stars like Shohei Ohtani returning soon, Edman's role as a multi-dimensional asset will remain crucial—proving why a player's value extends far beyond batting averages and power numbers into the realm of nuanced game-day strategy.

