

# THE *Gamer*

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

ISSUE 3

## HIT MAKER

**Donovan Solano**  
*Grips and Rips*

+

UPCOMING SERIES PREVIEWS

MEET ALYSSA NAKKEN

VIRTUAL JUNIOR GIANTS

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**Above:** Donovan Solano has been consistent at the plate and in the field this season.

**Cover photo:** Andy Kuno

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## ROCKIES AND DIAMONDBACKS

The final month of the 2020 season will see the Giants traveling to Denver for two games against the Rockies, then hosting Colorado and Arizona for four games each down the stretch.



Madison Bumgarner

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### Colorado Rockies »

» The Rockies offense is potent: Outfielder Charlie Blackmon hit .405 over his first 111 at-bats this season, while two-time All-Star shortstop Trevor Story and four-time Silver Slugger third baseman Nolan Arenado pack the heart of the order.

» The Giants will begin the month in Colorado (Sept. 1-2) then host the Rockies for four games at Oracle Park (Sept. 21-24). The Rockies took three out of four games against the Giants during a series in Denver in August.

» After 30 games in 2020, the Giants trailed the Rockies by half a game in the standings.

» The Rockies acquired former Giants outfielder Kevin Pillar in a trade with the Red Sox on August 31.

### Arizona Diamondbacks »

» The D-Backs signed ace southpaw Madison Bumgarner, who won 119 games with the Giants from 2009 to 2019. Bumgarner has struggled in Arizona, posting a 9.35 ERA over his first four starts before going on the IL with a mild back strain.

» The Giants will host a four-game series at Oracle Park (Sept. 4-7), the final matchup between the teams this season.

» The Diamondbacks roster includes 2019 All-Star Ketel Marte in the outfield and two-time Rawlings Gold Glove Award winner Nick Ahmed at shortstop.

» The D-Backs were busy at the trade deadline, dealing veteran lefty Robbie Ray to Toronto, closer Archie Bradley to Cincinnati and outfielder Starling Marte to Miami.

## » SEASON PREVIEWS

### PADRES AND MARINERS

The September schedule has the Giants visiting San Diego for four games and Seattle for two games, then hosting the Mariners for two games and finishing the season with three against the Padres.



Giants infielder Wilmer Flores forces out Jake Cronenworth of the Padres.

#### San Diego Padres »

» The Padres powerful offense is led by breakout superstar Fernando Tatis Jr. Third baseman Manny Machado and first baseman Eric Hosmer offer plenty of power in the middle of the lineup.

» The Padres' talented starting pitching staff includes Mike Clevinger, Zach Davies, Dinelson Lamet, and Chris Paddack.

» The Giants will visit Petco Park for one series (Sept. 10–13), while the Padres final series at Oracle Park will mark the end of the regular season for both teams.

» The Padres set a Major League record by hitting grand slams in four consecutive games in August.

#### Seattle Mariners »

» The Giants host the Mariners for two games (Sept. 8–9) and play two in Seattle (Sept. 15–16).

» The Mariners are loaded with young talent. Outfielder Kyle Lewis has power and blazing speed, making him a leading contender for American League Rookie of the Year this season. First baseman Evan White is showing lots of pop during his first season in the Majors.

» Veterans Kyle Seager and Dee Gordon add power and speed to the Seattle lineup.

» Starters Justus Sheffield, Marco Gonzales and Justin Dunn are a solid rotation.



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» SEASON PREVIEWS

OAKLAND ATHLETICS

The Giants will visit their American League neighbors in Oakland during the final road trip of the 2020 season. The rivalry against the Athletics dates back to 1989, when the teams faced off in the World Series.

Oakland Athletics »

- » The Athletics boast an infield with two Rawlings Gold Glove winners—Matt Chapman and Matt Olson. The team’s outfield defense is solid as well, especially in centerfield, thanks to Ramón Laureano’s strong arm and glove.
- » The Giants will visit the Oakland Coliseum for the final road series of the season (Sept. 18–20).
- » Starters Sean Manaea and Mike Fiers have thrown no-hitters for Oakland.
- » The Giants and Athletics have played 127 games since Interleague Play was introduced in 1997. Oakland leads the series 67–60.
- » The A’s bullpen had the lowest ERA in the American League during the first half. Closer Liam Hendriks has been dominant, with a blazing fastball and hard slider.
- » Oakland Manager Bob Melvin was a catcher for the Giants from 1986–1988.



Ramón Laureano

Upcoming schedule » Plan your Giants-related activities around the 2020 schedule.

JULY/AUGUST

SUNMONTUEWEDTHUFRI SAT

	19	6:45 OAK	20	6:45 OAK	21	22	7:08 LAD	23	6:40 LAD	24	1:10 LAD	25															
7:08 LAD	26		27	6:45 SD	28	6:45 SD	29	6:45 SD	30	6:10 TEX	31	6:10 TEX	1														
1:05 TEX	2	5:40 COL	3	5:40 COL	4	5:40 COL	5	12:10 COL	6	6:40 LAD	7	6:10 LAD	8														
1:10 LAD	9	6:10 HOU	10	6:10 HOU	11	4:10 HOU	12		13	6:45 OAK	14	4:07 OAK	15														
1:05 OAK	16	6:40 LAA	17	1:10 LAA	18	6:45 LAA	19	6:45 LAA	20	6:45 ARI	21	6:15 ARI	22														
1:10 ARI	23		24	6:45 LAD	25	6:45 LAD	26	5:05 LAD	27	6:40 ARI	28	5:10 ARI	29														
1:10 ARI	30		31																								

HOME EXHIBITION

ROAD EXHIBITION

HOME

AWAY

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SEPTEMBER

SUNMONTUEWEDTHUFRI SAT

		5:40 COL	1	12:10 COL	2	3	6:45 ARI	4	6:15 ARI	5																	
1:05 ARI	6	5:05 ARI	7	6:45 SEA	8	6:45 SEA	9	6:10 SD	10	6:10 SD	11	6:10 SD	12														
1:10 SD	13		14	6:40 SEA	15	6:40 SEA	16		17	6:40 OAK	18	1:10 OAK	19														
1:10 OAK	20	6:45 COL	21	6:45 COL	22	6:45 COL	23	12:45 COL	24	6:45 SD	25	6:15 SD	26														
12:05 SD	27		28		29	30																			7/13/20		

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## » NEW RULES

### RULE CHANGES FOR 2020

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Fans will notice a number of significant changes to the way the game is played during the 2020 season.

In order to play ball during the COVID-19 crisis, Major League Baseball has created some significant new rules this season. Here's a quick review.

#### » Universal designated hitter

Every team will use the designated hitter to avoid overtaxing pitchers by having them hit in the lineup.

#### » Runner on second to begin extra innings

During the regular season, every half-inning after the ninth will begin with a runner on second base. If that runner scores, the pitcher won't be charged with an earned run.

The runner placed on second base at the start of each half-inning will be the player in the batting order immediately preceding that half-inning's leadoff hitter, or a pinch-runner. However, if the player in the batting order immediately preceding that half-inning's leadoff hitter is the pitcher, the runner placed on second base may be the player preceding the pitcher in the batting order. This rule will not be in place for the postseason.

#### » Position players pitching

There will be no restrictions on position players pitching in 2020.

A rule change installed this past offseason would have required teams to designate every player on the active roster as either a pitcher or a position player, and position players would have been unable to pitch unless it was extra innings, their team was ahead or trailing by more than six runs, or they had qualified for the "two-way" designation.

#### » Seven inning games in double-headers

When double-headers are scheduled to make up cancelled games, a regulation game shall consist of seven innings, unless extended due to a tie score.

#### » Unsportsmanlike conduct

Players and managers will be expected to maintain physical distance from all umpires



Steven Duggar is automatically placed on second base to begin the bottom of the tenth inning of a Giants game against the Padres.

and opposing players on the playing field whenever possible. Players or managers who leave their position to argue with umpires; come within six feet of an umpire, opposing player or manager for the purpose of argument; or engage in an altercation on the field will be subject to immediate ejection and discipline, including a fine and a suspension.

#### » Wet rag for pitchers

Pitchers will be permitted to carry a small wet rag in their back pocket to be used for moisture in lieu of licking their fingers. Pitchers will not be able to access the rag while on the rubber, and they must clearly wipe the fingers of their pitching hand dry before touching the ball or the rubber. Water is the only substance that will be allowed on the rag.



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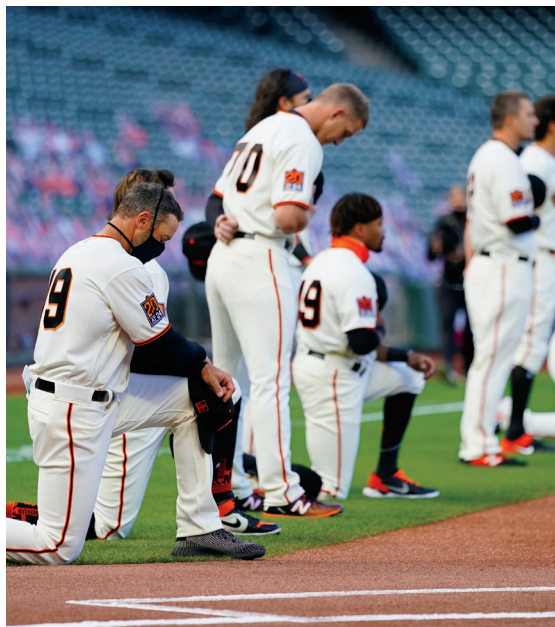


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**Above:** The Padres and Giants practice social distancing during the home opener at Oracle Park.  
**Below:** The Giants observe the national anthem during the home opener; outfielder Jaylin Davis and shortstop Brandon Crawford listen to the national anthem.







**Above:** Mike Krukow and Duane Kuiper are all smiles in their respective press booths. The beloved broadcasters are calling home and away games from Oracle Park this season.

**Below:** Mike Yastrzemski celebrates with teammates—at a safe distance—after hitting a walk-off home run in the bottom of the ninth inning to defeat the Padres on July 29.





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**Above:** Cutouts of fans fill seats behind home plate as the Giants play the Padres. More than 13,000 cutouts are seated at Oracle Park, as fans continue to show their support by sending in their photos.

**Below:** Joey Bart records his first Major League hit, a double in a win against the Angels.





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**Above:** Brandon Crawford rounds the bases after hitting his 100th career home run on Aug. 20. The blast was the shortstop's second homer of the season and helped the Giants defeat the Angels 10-5.



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## » FAST FACTS

### Alyssa Nakken » Assistant Coach

The Giants employ many talented women throughout the organization, but Alyssa Nakken is the first to wear the team's uniform in an official capacity. Nakken, the first full-time female coach in Major League Baseball, joined the Giants coaching staff in January. Here are some fast facts about the California native.

**1.** Nakken, 30, grew up in Woodland, Calif., just 81 miles from Oracle Park. She played basketball, softball and volleyball for Woodland High School.

**2.** She played first base for the softball team at California State University, Sacramento from 2009-2012. She was named to the All-Pacific Coast Softball Conference for four years and received honors as the 2012 Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

**3.** Nakken joined the Giants as a baseball operations intern in 2014. She performed a range of duties for the organization, including development of health and wellness initiatives, before joining the coaching staff this season. She also earned a master's degree in sports management from the University of San Francisco in 2015.

**4.** When Nakken coached first base during the final innings of the Giants' exhibition game against the Oakland Athletics on July 20, she became the first woman to coach on the field in Major League history.

**5.** The game jersey that Nakken wore at Dodger Stadium on Opening Day has been sent to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY.

**BORN:** June 13, 1990

**BECAME A GIANT:** Joined the Giants coaching staff in January 2020.







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# GIGANTES



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CON ERWIN HIGUEROS

**MAURICIO DUBÓN**

**DOMINGO  
20 DE SEPTIEMBRE  
11AM**



**TELEMUNDO**  
AREA DE LA BAHÍA

En este episodio, Erwin se sienta con Mauricio Dubón para conversar sobre su niñez y su camino para convertirse en lanzador de Grandes Ligas.

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# Q&A:

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## ***DONOVAN SOLANO***

*The Giants' hot-hitting infielder has been a breakout star in 2020*

---

**BY PETER CROOKS**





## » Donovan Solano

Donovan Solano has found his heart—and certainly his swing—in San Francisco. The Colombian-born infielder, 32, is one of the National League's leading hitters this season, thanks to the sharp line drives he sends all over the field with stunning frequency.

Solano made his debut with the Miami Marlins in 2012, hitting .295 during his rookie season. Solano struggled after that, then spent time in the Yankees and Dodgers organizations until 2018, when he signed a minor league deal with the Giants.

Since joining the Giants, Solano has sizzled. He hit .330 in 81 games in 2019, then dazzled the baseball world this season with a 17-game hitting streak and one of the MLB's top batting averages during the first month of the 60-game campaign.

**The Gamer** caught up with “Donnie Barrels,” as his teammates call him, to discuss his success in San Francisco, and why he is thankful for the opportunity the Giants have given him.

**The Gamer:** It has been exciting to have baseball back after such a long delay. What has this unusual season been like for you?

**Solano:** It means so much to me, because being able to play baseball every day is special. I get to work on what I like to do, I get to represent my country, and I get to represent the San Francisco Giants. I really feel that being able to play is a blessing from God.

**The Gamer:** Is it extra special to be able to play this season?

**Solano:** Well, I always feel like playing



baseball is a blessing from God. I am so thankful that I am able to play at this level—it is a blessing to play every single day, not just this year. But I also see why baseball is so important for people during the pandemic, and I know God will get us through the pandemic.

---

**The Gamer:** Where did the nickname “Donnie Barrels” come from?

**Solano:** I think it started with my teammate Mike Yastrzemski. He started calling me “Donnie Ballgame.” Then, some teammates started asking how I got the barrel of the bat on the ball, and somehow the name became “Donnie Barrels.”

---

**The Gamer:** Your batting average has been sensational since you came to San Francisco. What has changed in your approach to hitting since you joined the Giants?

**Solano:** I don't think I have changed my approach while I was playing with the Giants. I changed before that. I think I changed my approach in 2016 when I was

**“My goal is to help the team win and to make it to the postseason. A World Series ring is the ultimate goal.”**

—DONOVAN SOLANO



in Miami, and this success has been the result of those changes.

When I came to San Francisco, it was my second opportunity in the Major Leagues. My first was with Miami. I am so thankful to the Giants to have this opportunity.

**The Gamer:** You are one of the top hitters in the National League this season, hitting better than .400 at the time of this interview. Can you hardly wait to come up to the plate for each at bat?

**Solano:** (Laughs) Yes! I do have that urge to go to bat! The high average has been interesting. Everyone is talking about me, my average, the success that I am having. My teammates all want to talk about it. The object is still the same—to do something to help my team.



**The Gamer:** Have you ever had a season at any time in your life like this one?

**Solano:** I don't think so. I don't remember having a season, or a start to a season, like this one in Triple-A or winter league. I am surprised and very happy to say the least.

**The Gamer:** You have also been able to play at second base, shortstop and third base. Would you rather play one position?

**Solano:** I want to play wherever the Giants want me to play. If they want me mostly at second base, sometimes at shortstop, that is fine. My goal is to help the team win and to make it to the postseason. A World Series ring is the ultimate goal.

**The Gamer:** What highlight from 2020 stands out for you so far?

**Solano:** My highlight this year is the game [on July 29 against the San Diego Padres] when I hit my [three-run] home run, which tied the game. Mike Yastrzemski won the game with his home run.

**The Gamer:** What did you know about the Giants while growing up in Colombia?

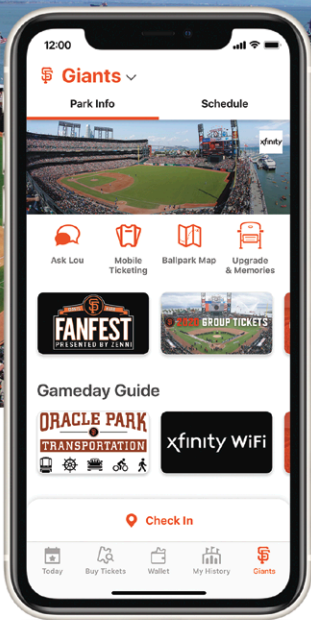
**Solano:** I knew of the Giants because of Barry Bonds, there was always news about his home runs.

I also followed Édgar Rentería, who was also from Colombia. When I would watch him play for the Giants, I noticed the great fan base that the Giants have. I could tell that there was harmony between the team and the fans for each and every game.

**The Gamer:** Aside from coming to the ballpark, what is your favorite thing to do in San Francisco?

**Solano:** I love to take my [wife and two sons] to Pier 39 to see the sea lions. We all love that. We love the Golden Gate Bridge. And I like being out in the middle of the day, when it is not too hot and not too cold.

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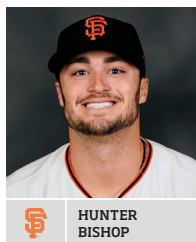
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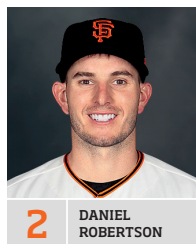
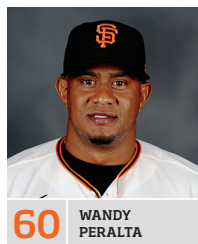
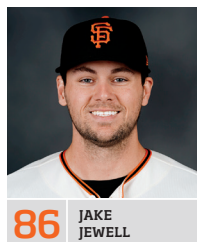
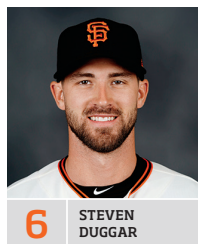
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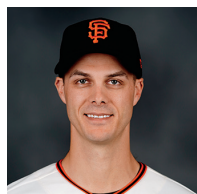
**Bonus Cash Rewards Offer.** You will qualify for \$200 bonus cash rewards if you use your new credit card account to make any combination of purchase transactions totaling at least \$1,000 (exclusive of any fees, returns and adjustments) that post to your account within 90 days of the account open date. Limit 1 bonus cash rewards offer per new account. This one-time promotion is limited to customers opening a new account in response to this offer and will not apply to requests to convert existing accounts. Other advertised promotional bonus cash rewards offers can vary from this promotion and may not be substituted. Allow 8-12 weeks from qualifying for the bonus cash rewards to post to your rewards balance.

▼ Earn 3% and 2% cash back on the first \$2,500 in combined choice category/grocery store/wholesale club purchases each quarter. Once the \$2,500 quarterly limit is reached, additional Net Purchases will earn base cash rewards of 1%.

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## » PLAYERS



**71** TYLER  
ROGERS



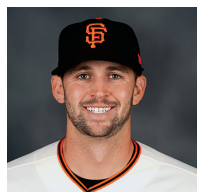
**33** DARIN  
RUF



**29** JEFF  
SAMARDZIJA



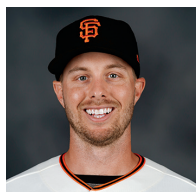
**48** PABLO  
SANDOVAL



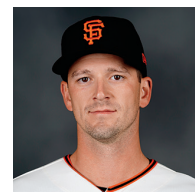
**67** SAM  
SELMAN



**26** CHRIS  
SHAW



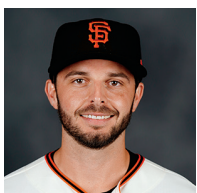
**13** AUSTIN  
SLATER



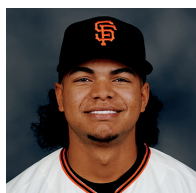
**18** DREW  
SMYLY



**7** DONOVAN  
SOLANO



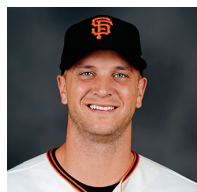
**59** ANDREW  
SUÁREZ



**90** LUIS  
TORIBIO



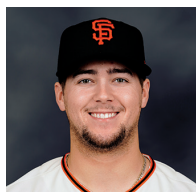
**14** CHADWICK  
TROMP



**56** TONY  
WATSON



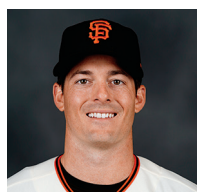
**62** LOGAN  
WEBB



**85** WILL  
WILSON



**83** SAM  
WOLFF



**5** MIKE  
YASTRZEMSKI



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**MURPH & MAC**

**6AM-10AM**



**PAPA & LUND**

**10AM-2PM**



**TOLBERT, KRUEGER & BROOKS**

**2PM-6PM**



**THE MARK WILLARD SHOW**

**6PM-10PM**



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» **MANAGER AND COACHES**



**19** **GABE  
KAPLER**



**32** **CRAIG  
ALBERNAZ**



**45** **ANDREW  
BAILEY**



**45** **BRIAN  
BANNISTER**



**50** **KAI  
CORREA**



**63** **DONNIE  
ECKER**



**91** **MARK  
HALLBERG**



**52** **ETHAN  
KATZ**



**88** **DUSTIN  
LIND**



**92** **ALYSSA  
NAKKEN**



**79** **NICK  
ORTIZ**



**00** **ANTWAN  
RICHARDSON**



**17** **JUSTIN  
VIELE**



**23** **RON  
WOTUS**



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## JUNIOR GIANTS AT HOME

Flagship baseball program for underserved youth goes virtual during the COVID-19 pandemic.

» In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Giants Community Fund converted the flagship program, Junior Giants, into a virtual format called Junior Giants at Home in order to continue to reach and connect with underserved youth.

This summer Junior Giants at Home included more than 12,300 participants from 490 cities in four countries. During the four four-week long seasons, Junior Giants at Home practices were led by a team of 90 Junior Giants AmeriCorps Ambassadors and featured lessons focused on confidence, integrity, leadership and teamwork, health and fitness, the importance of education and bullying prevention.

In addition to the character development lessons, Junior Giants learned from Giants

**“My foster son and daughter have never experienced sports and were scared to do it as they are both shy. It was wonderful watching them come out of their shells. Thank you for making this possible for all of the children bored and alone at home!”**

—JUNIOR GIANTS AT HOME PARENT FROM REDDING, CA

Manager Gabe Kapler and the Giants coaching staff. The coaches provided skills and drills videos that were shared with Junior Giants players to keep them active at home.

Fans can learn more about Junior Giants and Junior Giants at Home by visiting [jrgiants.org](http://jrgiants.org).

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TO LOCK IN ALL THOSE JUICES

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Travis Ishikawa watches his walk-off home run clinch the 2014 National League Championship Series. The blast sent the Giants to the World Series for the third time in five seasons.

SUZANNA MITCHELL



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