

MLP 2026 · CALIFORNIA · TEAM PROFILE



California Black Bears

Team Profile Dossier

How the franchise is run, how it plays, who it has, how it builds its roster and what the 2027 off-season asks for

Ownership · Roster rules · Performance · Squad · Acquisition model · Needs

VIEWPOINT

California Black Bears' 2026 season, tested against published MLP and tour data

PREPARED BY

PKLStats · Chris Beaumont

DATE

9 October 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

California Black Bears: eleven in-season arrivals, a women's core worth keeping and a men's line to buy

California were the league's busiest trader and finished 13th · 31 pts, outside the playoffs. They brought in 11 players during the season, joint-most with Miami, and still ended with men's doubles at 9–17 (16th) and mixed at 19–31 (15th); women's doubles held level at 13–13. The record, 11–15, was slightly kind: +1.2 wins above what their points share predicts, helped by a 5–2 DreamBreaker record. The 2027 case is clearer. Zoey Weil is a projected keeper at \$10,000, which pickleball.com's 1 Sep review calls one of the best bargains on any team, and with about \$990,000 of room California can do what the review suggests few teams will: bid big for men while rivals chase women.

2026 FINISH	REG-SEASON MATCHUPS	WD · MD · MIXED RANK	PROJECTED KEEPERS (K)
13th · 31 pts · Missed playoffs	11–15 · =10th	=7th · 16th · 15th	1 of 6

TOP THREE NEEDS (GENERAL MANAGER'S VIEW)

Two starting men for MD 1 Men's doubles was the problem at 9–17 (16th). The pairings changed with the roster, and the men left at the end, Pablo Tellez and Joey Wild, are off the keeper list. Dylan Frazier can be kept, but at \$170,000 the review treats him as a ROFR fallback rather than a starter to lock in. Two starting men is the main spend. Window: 2027 draft (April 2027, proposed rules); or ROFR on a released starter Confidence: High	WD partner for Weil 2 Weil and Sahra Dennehy went 8–8 together, a .500 pair on a .500 line. Dennehy can be kept at \$35,000, but keeping both women takes California out of the bidding for any other starting woman, the trade-off the review sets out. The choice is continuity at a known price or an upgrade at an unknown one. Window: 2027 draft (April 2027, proposed rules); or ROFR on a released starter Confidence: Medium-high	Mixed-capable third man 3 Frazier, after arriving from Miami on 14 July, was the third man: ten mixed and ten men's doubles games. None of the three men is a projected keeper, so the third man has to come from the auction or waivers. Window: 2027 draft (5th/6th slot) or waiver Confidence: Medium-high
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Does the roster-building model work? Not yet. 11 in-season arrivals point to a roster that was never settled after a \$127,000 draft, and none of the five picks was still on the roster at the end. What survives is cheap and useful: Weil at \$10,000. A capped auction rewards the kind of evaluation California's churn has not yet shown.



Team, ownership and roster rules

Who owns the franchise, who runs it, the 2026 MLP mechanics that constrained every move, and what the proposed 2027 reset means.

-
- Ownership, GM and home market
 - MLP 2026 format and roster rules
 - Recent seasons and the 2027 outlook
-

A • TEAM AND LEADERSHIP

Ownership, leadership and the home market

Ownership	Ritchie Tuazon (owner; Good Day Pickleball). Jimmy Miller is president.
Business	2025 MLP Cup Challenger-bracket winners (Good Day Pickleball).
General manager	Conflicting: Good Day Pickleball lists owner Ritchie Tuazon as GM; pickleball.com (1 Sep 2026) calls Erik Tice "GM of the California Black Bears".
Head coach	Not published in the sources we fetched.
Home market	California
Founded / lineage	Not published in the sources we fetched.
Multi-club	Owner Ritchie Tuazon is also a co-founder of the Bay Area Breakers (Good Day Pickleball).

Sources: <https://gooddaypickleball.com/teams/california-black-bears>; <https://pickleball.com/news/mlp-2027-a-look-ahead-to-next-season-for-all-20-teams> (1 Sep 2026). "Not published" means no fetched source gave it.

WHAT CHANGED IN 2026

Kept 1 at the 15 Feb deadline (Layne Sleeth). Drafted 5 on 27 Feb (#15 Kiora Kunimoto, #24 Chris Haworth, #28 Mohamed Anouar Braham, #35 Michael Loyd, #37 Emma Nelson). 11 players in and 11 out in the transaction log (pickleballinsiders reconciliation).

Did not reach the 12-team playoffs.

RECENT SEASONS

SEASON	FINISH	NOTE
2024	not in fetched sources	Challenger. Regular-season matchups 7-16 (computed from MLP game file). No playoff matchups.
2025	Challenger 3rd · 38 pts	Challenger. Regular-season matchups 12-13 (computed from MLP game file). Playoff matchups 1-2; last: lost to Nashville Chefs 1-3.
2026	13th · 31 pts · Missed playoffs	One 20-team league. Regular season 11–15; Did not reach the 12-team playoffs.

2024–25: two levels (Premier, Challenger). Positions and points from pickleball.com (27–28 Oct 2024) and Forbes (15 Aug 2025); W–L and playoff matchups computed from MLP's official game files. "Not in fetched sources" = no article gave the figure.

A • MLP ROSTER MECHANICS

The 2026 rules, and where California Black Bears stand

MLP scores the regular season on cumulative standings points across nine events, not on win-loss records, and publishes no season W-L table; section B computes one from the official game results. Rosters are six players (three men, three women). California Black Bears's 2027 position: 1 projected keepers, 0 stated releases and 3 implied releases on the end-of-season six.

League shape	20 teams, one level (Premier/Challenger gone). Nine regular-season events + expanded 12-team, three-week playoffs. Final at Wollman Rink, 30 Aug 2026.
Match format	Women's doubles, men's doubles, two mixed, each to 11, win by 2, all four played. DreamBreaker (singles, 2M+2W) if 2-2.
Standings points	Event scale 25-18-15-12-10-8-6-4-1-1 by Sunday finish. Group play awards 3/2/1/0 per match (regulation / DB win / DB loss / regulation loss).
Keepers 2026	Max five keepers due 15 Feb. League-wide: 54 kept, 66 draft slots. California Black Bears kept 1: Layne Sleeth.
Draft	Live auction, 27 Feb. No spending cap in 2026. California Black Bears picks: #15 Kiora Kunimoto (\$45,000), #24 Chris Haworth (\$30,000), #28 Mohamed Anouar Braham (\$10,000), #35 Michael Loyd (\$21,000), #37 Emma Nelson (\$21,000).
2027 (proposed)	\$1m acquisition cap, \$500k floor, per-player cap ~\$600-800k, one ROFR designation; every 2024 draftee released after 2026. Not final as of 9 October 2026 (pickleball.com, 21 Jul 2026).

KEEPER STATUS OF THE END-OF-SEASON SIX (K)

- **Dylan Frazier** (M): keepable \$170,000 · option / ROFR fallback
- **Zoey Weil** (F): keepable \$10,000 · certain
- **Sahra Dennehy** (F): keepable \$35,000 · possible
- **Pablo Tellez** (M): release implied
- **Joey Wild** (M): release implied
- **Jalina Ingram** (F): release implied

(K) = pickleball.com, "MLP 2027: A look ahead", 1 Sep 2026, keeper data credited to Erik Tice. Statuses marked "implied" are our reading of who the article leaves out.

What this means for 2027 recruitment. (1) Projected keepers: Zoey Weil at \$10,000 in published keeper prices. (2) That leaves about \$990,000 under the proposed \$1m cap, and at least \$490,000 must be spent to reach the proposed \$500k floor. (3) ROFR: the article raises it for Dylan Frazier; only one released player can be matched. (4) 5 of 6 roster spots are expected to turn over, so the April 2027 auction decides most of the team.

B

How the team plays

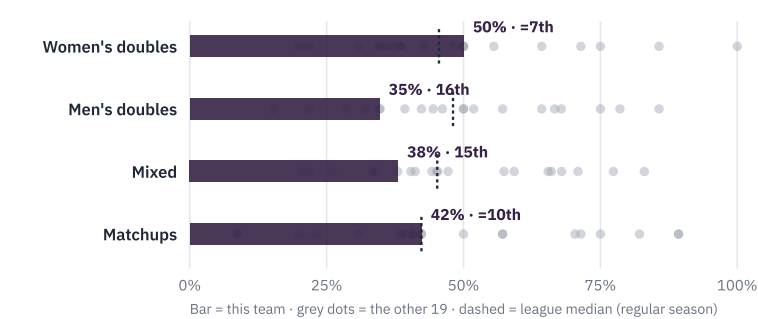
Regular-season record, discipline splits and pairings, computed from MLP's official 2026 game results and ranked against all 20 teams.

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- Record and discipline splits vs the league
-
- Pairings, standings and the playoff line
-
- B2 · Beyond the scoreline: on/off, chemistry, schedule, luck
-
- B3 · The PKLStats Rating v2: our own player rating

B • PERFORMANCE

7th in women's doubles; 16th in men's doubles

WIN RATE BY DISCIPLINE VS THE LEAGUE (2026 REGULAR SEASON)



READING

California's season split by gender. Women's doubles finished level at 13–13 (=7th); men's doubles (9–17, 16th) and mixed (19–31, 15th) did not come close.

The 5–2 DreamBreaker record turned five drawn matchups into wins and kept the overall record at 11–15.

LEAGUE TABLE • 2026 REGULAR SEASON (9 EVENTS) • COMPUTED FROM MLP'S OFFICIAL GAME RESULTS

#	TEAM	MATCHUPS	WIN %	WD	MD	MIXED	DB	PTS FOR-AGAINST	+/-
=1	St. Louis Shock	25–3	89.3%	24–4 86%	24–4 86%	41–12 77%	2–1	1163–648	+515
=1	New Jersey 5s	25–3	89.3%	28–0 100%	16–12 57%	44–9 83%	2–2	1180–703	+477
3	Los Angeles Mad Drops	23–5	82.1%	18–10 64%	22–6 79%	36–17 68%	2–1	1104–834	+270
4	Columbus Sliders	21–7	75.0%	20–8 71%	19–9 68%	36–19 65%	2–1	1097–827	+270
5	Brooklyn Pickleball Team	20–8	71.4%	14–14 50%	21–7 75%	39–16 71%	2–4	1140–936	+204
6	Dallas Flash	19–8	70.4%	15–12 56%	18–9 67%	35–18 66%	6–4	1182–941	+241
=7	Palm Beach Royals	16–12	57.1%	21–7 75%	11–17 39%	32–22 59%	2–2	1014–966	+48
=7	Texas Ranchers	16–12	57.1%	12–16 43%	18–10 64%	31–23 57%	2–4	1033–1006	+27
9	Orlando Squeeze	13–13	50.0%	10–16 38%	13–13 50%	21–31 40%	4–3	954–1031	-77
=10	California Black Bears	11–15	42.3%	13–13 50%	9–17 35%	19–31 38%	5–2	954–1069	-115
=10	SoCal Hard Eights	11–15	42.3%	10–16 38%	12–14 46%	21–30 41%	4–2	905–1053	-148
=12	Atlanta Bouncers	11–16	40.7%	10–17 37%	14–13 52%	24–29 45%	2–3	957–1029	-72
=12	Chicago Slice	11–16	40.7%	13–14 48%	12–15 44%	17–33 34%	5–2	962–1068	-106
14	Las Vegas Night Owls	11–17	39.3%	10–18 36%	8–20 29%	25–28 47%	5–4	1032–1167	-135
15	Miami Pickleball Club	10–16	38.5%	8–18 31%	13–13 50%	23–28 45%	2–4	910–1021	-111
16	Utah Black Diamonds	8–18	30.8%	9–17 35%	11–15 42%	23–29 44%	1–4	921–1039	-118
17	Florida Smash	6–20	23.1%	13–13 50%	4–22 15%	13–37 26%	3–2	848–1079	-231
18	Bay Area Breakers	5–20	20.0%	5–20 20%	8–17 32%	16–32 33%	1–1	708–980	-272
=19	Phoenix Flames	2–21	8.7%	8–15 35%	8–15 35%	10–36 22%	1–5	731–1020	-289
=19	Carolina Hogs	2–21	8.7%	5–18 22%	5–18 22%	9–35 20%	0–2	571–949	-378

Ranked by matchup win % (teams played 23–28 matchups), ties listed by points difference. Game columns show games won–lost and win %; Mixed combines both mixed slots. DB = DreamBreaker. Points include DreamBreaker points. Source: data/results/mlp_2026_team_summary.csv. Mid-Season Tournament and playoffs are not included.

B • PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

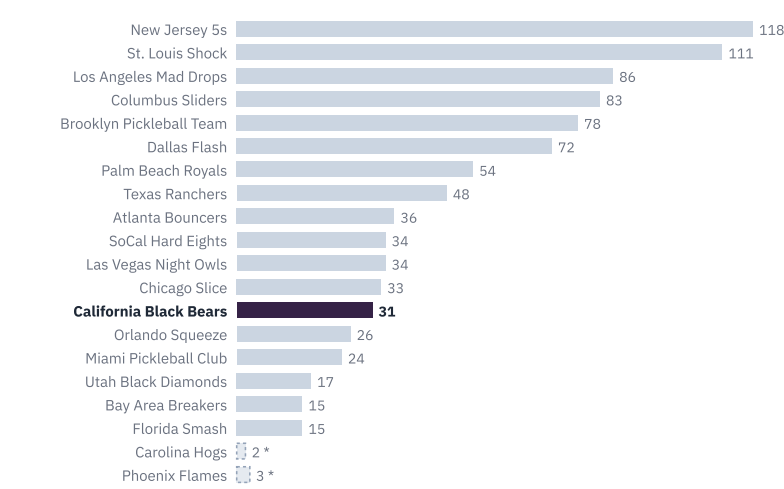
Pairings, standings and the playoff line

CALIFORNIA BLACK BEARS PAIRINGS • OFFICIAL MLP GAME RESULTS

DISC.	PAIRING	REGULAR SEASON	ALL 2026 (INCL. MID-SEASON + PLAYOFFS)	POINTS (ALL 2026)	SAMPLE
WD	Dennehy / Weil	8–8 · 50%	8–8 · 50%	142–141	
WD	Dennehy / Kunimoto	5–3 · 62%	5–3 · 62%	63–61	Small sample
WD	Dennehy / Nelson	0–2 · 0%	1–4 · 20%	31–45	Small sample
MD	Frazier / Tellez	6–4 · 60%	6–4 · 60%	84–86	
MD	Braham / Wild	1–3 · 25%	2–4 · 33%	60–66	Small sample
MD	Tellez / Wild	1–5 · 17%	1–5 · 17%	38–64	Small sample
MD	Braham / Loyd	1–4 · 20%	1–4 · 20%	38–49	Small sample
MD	Braham / Delgado	0–1 · 0%	0–1 · 0%	3–11	Small sample
MD	Braham / Tellez	0–0 · —	0–1 · 0%	4–11	Small sample
Mixed	Tellez / Weil	5–7 · 42%	5–7 · 42%	104–105	
Mixed	Dennehy / Wild	3–4 · 43%	5–4 · 56%	77–70	Small sample
Mixed	Braham / Dennehy	3–3 · 50%	3–3 · 50%	49–48	Small sample
Mixed	Dennehy / Frazier	3–3 · 50%	3–3 · 50%	52–52	Small sample
Mixed	Delgado / Kunimoto	1–2 · 33%	1–2 · 33%	28–30	Small sample
Mixed	Dennehy / Tellez	0–3 · 0%	0–3 · 0%	26–34	Small sample
Mixed	Frazier / Weil	0–3 · 0%	0–3 · 0%	10–33	Small sample

Highlighted rows have 15 or more games; fewer than 10 is flagged as a small sample. Up to 16 pairings shown, most-used first. DreamBreaker starts (first-listed player only, all 2026): Dennehy 2–1, Weil 2–0, Braham 1–0, Tellez 0–1. MLP's DreamBreaker rows do not show the full rotation.

2026 REGULAR-SEASON STANDINGS POINTS



* Carolina and Phoenix: no published total; sum of per-event points (MLP feed).

READING

League position. 13th of 20 on 31 points, 2 behind CHI (12th) and 87 behind New Jersey. Positions 13–18 are provisional in the published table.

Event finishes (MLP official): Columbus 9th · Austin 7th · San Diego 6th · Chicago 3rd · Orlando 9th. Sum 31 points.

Playoffs. Did not reach the 12-team playoffs. Across all 2026 the matchup record is 12–17.

B2 • BEYOND THE SCORELINE

Four measures the scoreboard hides, for all 20 teams

We built four measures from MLP's official 2026 game file (1,368 games) and ranked every team and player: who moves the needle on court (on/off), which pairs beat the sum of their parts (chemistry), how strong each team was after adjusting for opponents, and how much of each record was luck.

ON/OFF • BEST QUALIFYING

+2.85 pts/g

Frazier MD: 13th of 139

CHEMISTRY • BEST PAIR (≥10 G)

+5.6 pts share

Tellez / Weil Mixed: 11th of 38

OPPONENT-ADJUSTED STRENGTH

13th of 20

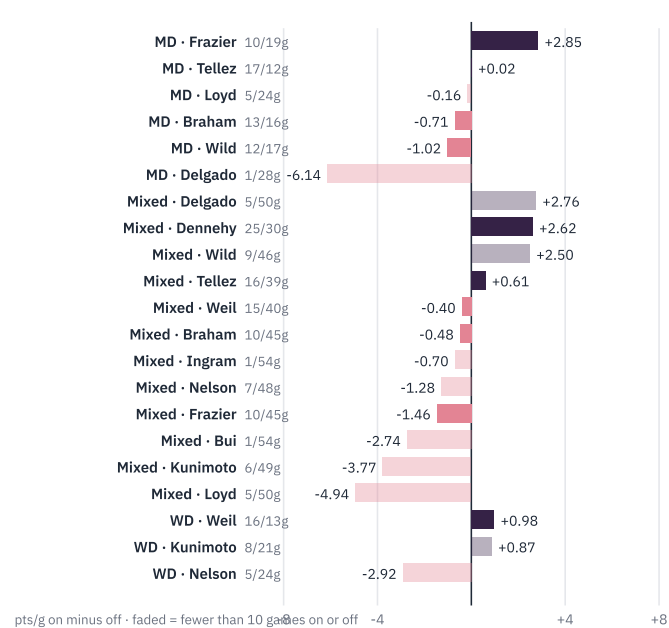
schedule 18th hardest

LUCK • WINS VS EXPECTED

+1.2 • 5th

2-pt games 10–16

1 • Player on/off: California Black Bears, all 2026 doubles games



READING

Biggest qualifying lift: Dylan Frazier (MD). California won 60% of MD games with them on court and 21% without (10 and 19 games): +2.85 points a game, 13th of 139.

Lowest qualifying: Dylan Frazier (Mixed), -1.46 pts/g (108th of 139).

Small samples. 11 other player-disciplines have fewer than 10 games on or off; read them as direction, not size.

League on/off leaders and trailers (≥10 games on and off; points per game, on minus off)

#	PLAYER	TEAM	DISC.	GAMES ON / OFF	WIN % ON / OFF	ON/OFF PTS/G
1	Armaan Bhatia	SoCal	MD	23 / 10	56% / 0%	+6.27
2	Mari Humberg	ATL	WD	19 / 16	74% / 19%	+6.19
3	Blaine Hovenier	BAY	MD	10 / 17	50% / 24%	+3.98
4	Parris Todd	COL	WD	26 / 10	73% / 60%	+3.92
...	...					
13	Dylan Frazier	CAL	MD	10 / 19	60% / 21%	+2.85
...	...					
16	Sahra Dennehy	CAL	Mixed	25 / 30	48% / 30%	+2.62
...	...					
108	Dylan Frazier	CAL	Mixed	10 / 45	30% / 40%	-1.46
...	...					
138	Rafael Lenhard	SoCal	MD	13 / 20	8% / 60%	-5.16
139	Abbigal Hatton	CAR	WD	15 / 10	7% / 40%	-5.47

On/off is a team result, not individual skill: a player who always partners the same star shares the pair's numbers. Source: data/measures/onoff_players_2026.csv (351 rows; 139 qualify).

B2 • BEYOND THE SCORELINE

2 • Pairing chemistry: pairs with ≥10 games together, all 2026 (point share actual / expected, %)

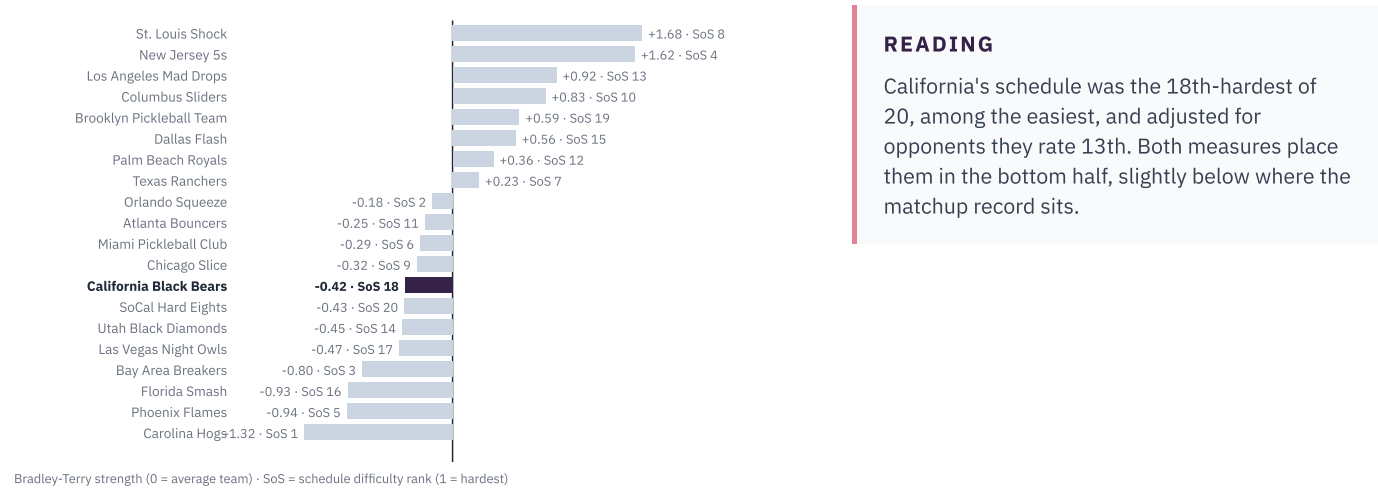
#	PAIR	TEAM	DISC.	W-L	POINT SHARE ACT. / EXP.	CHEM. (PTS SHARE)	CHEM. (WIN %)
1	Jay Devilliers / Jessie Irvine	ATL	Mixed	17-8	54.6 / 38.3	+16.3	+55.3
2	Jessie Irvine / Mari Humberg	ATL	WD	14-5	55.6 / 41.0	+14.5	+46.1
3	Federico Staksrud / Jack Sock	ORL	MD	13-8	54.0 / 40.9	+13.2	+35.2
4	Augustus Ge / Danni-Elle Townsend	DAL	Mixed	19-6	60.5 / 48.1	+12.3	+31.2
5	Jaume Martinez Vich / Mari Humberg	ATL	Mixed	8-9	52.1 / 41.5	+10.6	+16.4
...	...						
11	Pablo Tellez / Zoey Weil	CAL	Mixed	5-7	49.8 / 44.1	+5.6	+8.8
...	...						
18	Sahra Dennehy / Zoey Weil	CAL	WD	8-8	50.2 / 47.8	+2.4	+2.9
...	...						
22	Dylan Frazier / Pablo Tellez	CAL	MD	6-4	49.4 / 48.2	+1.2	+15.8
...	...						
36	Dylan Frazier / Isabella Dunlap	MIA	Mixed	4-8	41.3 / 47.0	-5.7	-13.5
37	Clayton Powell / Liz Truluck	LV	Mixed	3-11	40.0 / 46.8	-6.8	-21.2
38	Callie Smith / Liz Truluck	LV	WD	3-8	39.3 / 48.6	-9.2	-18.0

READING

California Black Bears' best scored pair: Pablo Tellez / Zoey Weil (Mixed), +5.6 points share against what each partner did with others (11th of 38).

Weakest scored pair: Dylan Frazier / Pablo Tellez (MD), +1.2 (22nd).

3 • Strength of schedule: opponent-adjusted strength (Bradley-Terry on regular-season games)

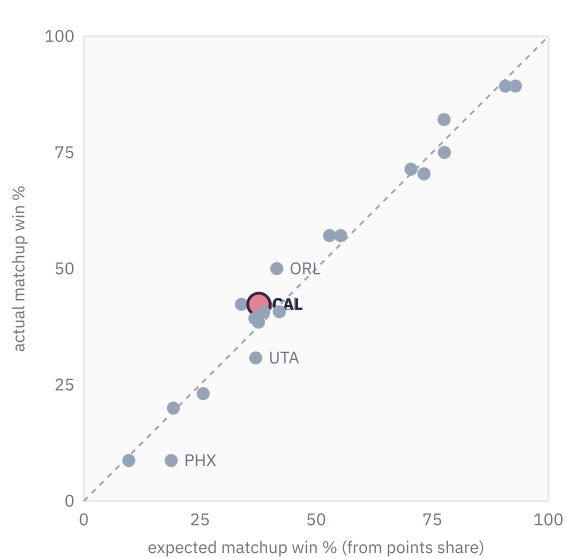


Bradley-Terry strength (0 = average team) • SoS = schedule difficulty rank (1 = hardest)

Method: each game is a head-to-head; the model finds team strengths that best explain who beat whom, so wins over strong teams count for more. Priors of 1 win and 1 loss against an average team keep ratings finite. Data: data/measures/strength_of_schedule_2026.csv, pair_chemistry_2026.csv (167 pairs; 38 with ≥10 games and scorable).

B2 • BEYOND THE SCORELINE

4 • Luck and clutch: matchup wins against what points share predicts (regular season, k = 4.4)



READING

Read California's record with care. A 47.2% points share predicts about 9.8 wins; they won 11, +1.2 above expectation and 5th of 20, just short of the ± 1.5 flag. DreamBreakers (5–2) account for much of the gap; two-point games did not (10–16).

TEAM	MATCHUPS	PTS SHARE	WIN % ACT. / EXP.	WINS VS EXP.	2-PT GAMES	DBS	2027 FLAG
Orlando Squeeze	13–13	48.1%	50.0% / 41.5%	+2.20	9–11	4–3	likely to fall back
SoCal Hard Eights	11–15	46.2%	42.3% / 33.9%	+2.18	12–9	4–2	likely to fall back
Utah Black Diamonds	8–18	47.0%	30.8% / 37.0%	-1.63	15–8	1–4	likely to improve
Phoenix Flames	2–21	41.7%	8.7% / 18.8%	-2.31	8–11	1–5	likely to improve
California Black Bears	11–15	47.2%	42.3% / 37.7%	+1.19	10–16	5–2	—

Expected win % = $PF^k / (PF^k + PA^k)$, k fitted on all 20 teams (least squares). Flags at ± 1.5 wins. Data: data/measures/luck_clutch_2026.csv.

B3 · THE PKLSTATS RATING V2

Our own player rating: who wins games once partners and opponents are taken out

The PKLStats Rating v2 scores every player with at least 10 games in a discipline in 2026: 189 player-disciplines, 101 players. It shares out each official MLP doubles game's point margin among the four players on court, so nobody is credited for a star partner or blamed for strong opponents, and it starts each player from their PPA and APP tour results. 100 is the average qualifying player and 10 points is one standard deviation.

How it works, in plain words

Results. For each game, our pair's margin = our two players' values minus theirs. We find the values that best explain all 3,890 official MLP doubles games since 2024 at once (2024 scores rescaled from rally to 25), pulling small samples towards a starting value.

Tour results as the starting value. The same model fitted on 12,184 PPA, APP and US national doubles results (win or loss, January 2024 to 3 May 2026, from PickleWave) gives each player a tour rating. MLP results then move them from there, so a newcomer or a player with few MLP games is not simply "average".

Recent games count more. A game's weight halves every 120 days.

One strength per player, plus a discipline offset. WD, MD and mixed share a common strength, with a small adjustment per discipline. This is what separates partners who never split.

Settings were chosen on 2024–25 only; 2026 was kept back as the test. Uncertainty: 200 re-samples of MLP games and tour matches; the band is the middle 80%. Confidence: High (band ≤8 points), Medium (≤13), Low (wider).

READING · WHAT CHANGED FROM V1, AND DOES IT PREDICT BETTER?

Tour results did most of the work. On 2026's second half, the tour starting value alone cut the Brier score by 0.023; one-strength-per-player by 0.007. Weighting recent games barely moved it (-0.001). All three together: 73% of winners called, against 67% for v1.

It now beats DUPR and PickleWave's Elo on the 256 second-half games where all four players have both: Brier 0.174 against 0.189 (Elo) and 0.191 (DUPR); 90% intervals for the gap exclude zero. v1 did not (0.185).

Blending in Elo and DUPR did not help. A stacked blend of all three scored 0.182; v2 + DUPR 0.173, within noise of v2 alone. We use v2 alone.

The test: a rating built on earlier games, scored on later official MLP games (both columns are 2026 games kept out of the tuning)

VERSION	FIT 2025 → PREDICT ALL 2026 R · WINNERS · BRIER			2026 FIRST HALF → SECOND HALF R · WINNERS · BRIER			BRIER VS V1, 2ND HALF (90% INTERVAL)
v1 · results only per-discipline pair model, 2026-style	0.45	66%	0.208	0.44	67%	0.208	—
v1 + tour results as the starting point	0.56	71%	0.184	0.55	73%	0.185	-0.023 (-0.031 to -0.016)
v1 + recent games count more	0.45	66%	0.210	0.44	67%	0.207	-0.001 (-0.002 to -0.000)
v1 + one strength per player plus a discipline offset	0.49	68%	0.201	0.47	69%	0.201	-0.007 (-0.013 to -0.001)
v2 · all three the published rating	0.57	72%	0.180	0.54	73%	0.186	-0.022 (-0.031 to -0.015)

r = correlation between predicted and actual point margin; Brier = mean squared error of the win probability (coin flip 0.250; lower is better). 1,297 and 613 games. Intervals re-sample whole matchups. Full results: data/rating/v2/v2_backtest_results.json.

B3 • THE PKLSTATS RATING V2

League tables: players with ≥10 official 2026 games in the discipline, rated on all MLP games since 2024 plus tour results (California Black Bears highlighted)

WOMEN’S DOUBLES • TOP 16 OF 47

#	PLAYER	TEAM	RATING	80% BAND	CONF.
1	A.L. Waters	NJ	131.5	128–134	H
2	A. Bright	STL	124.4	121–127	H
3	J. Johnson	NJ	117.5	114–120	H
4	T. Black	COL+1	115.8	112–119	H
5	P. Todd	COL	112.9	109–115	H
6	R. Rohrabacher	BKN	112.0	108–115	H
7	K. Fahey	STL	111.6	108–114	H
8	T. Pisman	PB	110.5	106–114	H
9	S. Sewing	PB	110.3	106–113	H
10	D.-E. Townsend	COL+1	108.2	104–111	H
11	J. Kawamoto	LA	107.2	103–110	H
12	C. Parenteau	LA	106.9	103–110	H
13	L. Schneemann	ORL	106.4	102–109	H
14	J. Kawamoto	BKN	105.0	101–108	H
15	M. Dizon	SoCal	104.4	101–107	H
16	E. Tuionetoa	UTA	104.2	100–107	H
...	...				
21	Z. Weil	CAL+1	99.3	95–103	H
22	S. Dennehy	CAL	99.3	94–103	M
39	K. Kunimoto	BAY+1	90.2	85–95	M

MEN’S DOUBLES • TOP 16 OF 49

#	PLAYER	TEAM	RATING	80% BAND	CONF.
1	B. Johns	LA	125.9	121–128	H
2	JW Johnson	DAL	118.3	114–122	H
3	G. Tardio	STL	116.3	114–119	H
4	C. Alshon	BKN	116.3	113–119	H
5	H. Patriquin	STL	115.0	112–117	H
6	A. Daescu	COL	113.1	110–116	H
7	E. Oncins	TEX	111.2	107–114	H
8	F. Staksrud	NJ+1	110.4	107–114	H
9	C. Garnett	LA+1	108.1	104–111	H
10	R. Newman	BKN	107.5	104–111	H
11	J. Devilliers	ATL	106.2	101–109	M
12	W. Howells	NJ	105.7	101–109	M
13	D. Frazier	CAL+2	105.2	101–109	H
14	J.L. Goins	CHI+1	104.0	99–107	M
15	A. Bhatia	SoCal	103.2	98–107	M
16	A. Ge	DAL	103.2	99–106	H
...	...				
25	A. Braham	CAL+1	98.7	94–102	H
31	P. Tellez	BAY+1	96.8	93–100	H
40	M. Loyd	CAL+2	94.2	90–97	H

MIXED DOUBLES • TOP 16 OF 93

#	PLAYER	TEAM	RATING	80% BAND	CONF.
1	A.L. Waters	NJ	129.9	126–133	H
2	A. Bright	STL	124.3	121–126	H
3	B. Johns	LA	123.2	118–125	H
4	C. Alshon	BKN	119.3	116–122	H
5	JW Johnson	DAL	119.1	116–122	H
6	J. Johnson	NJ	118.3	114–121	H
7	G. Tardio	STL	116.0	112–119	H
8	A. Daescu	COL	115.2	111–118	H
9	T. Black	COL+1	115.2	111–118	H
10	H. Patriquin	STL	113.0	110–115	H
11	R. Rohrabacher	BKN	112.6	109–116	H
12	K. Fahey	STL	112.1	108–115	H
13	E. Oncins	TEX	111.8	108–115	H
14	P. Todd	COL	111.5	108–114	H
15	F. Staksrud	NJ+1	111.0	107–114	H
16	D.-E. Townsend	COL+1	110.7	106–114	H
...	...				
39	A. Braham	CAL+1	100.8	96–105	M
42	P. Tellez	BAY+1	99.9	96–103	H
44	J. Delgado	BAY+2	99.4	94–103	M

Overall: games-weighted across a player's disciplines, top 8 of 101 (and California Black Bears)

#	PLAYER	TEAM	GAMES	RATING	80% BAND	CONFIDENCE	BY DISCIPLINE
1	Anna Leigh Waters	NJ	75	131.4	127.8–133.9	High	WD 131.5; Mixed 129.9
2	Ben Johns	LA	69	125.2	120.6–127.4	High	MD 125.9; Mixed 123.2
3	Anna Bright	STL	74	125.0	121.9–127.2	High	WD 124.4; Mixed 124.3
4	JW Johnson	DAL	78	119.3	115.9–122.9	High	MD 118.3; Mixed 119.1
5	Jorja Johnson	NJ	70	118.5	115.1–120.6	High	WD 117.5; Mixed 118.3
6	Christian Alshon	BKN	64	118.3	115.3–120.7	High	MD 116.3; Mixed 119.3
7	Gabriel Tardio	STL	67	116.8	113.9–119.4	High	MD 116.3; Mixed 116.0
8	Tyra Hurricane Black	COL+1	46	116.1	112.2–119.5	High	WD 115.8; Mixed 115.2
...	...						
38	Dylan Frazier	CAL+2	58	102.4	98.1–106.1	High	MD 105.2; Mixed 98.3
...	...						
42	Anouar Braham	CAL+1	43	100.2	95.6–104.1	Medium	MD 98.7; Mixed 100.8
...	...						
45	James Delgado	BAY+2	23	99.9	94.5–103.2	Medium	Mixed 99.4
46	Sahra Dennehy	CAL	54	99.8	94.0–103.7	Medium	WD 99.3; Mixed 99.1
...	...						
50	Pablo Tellez	BAY+1	63	98.9	95.4–101.6	High	MD 96.8; Mixed 99.9

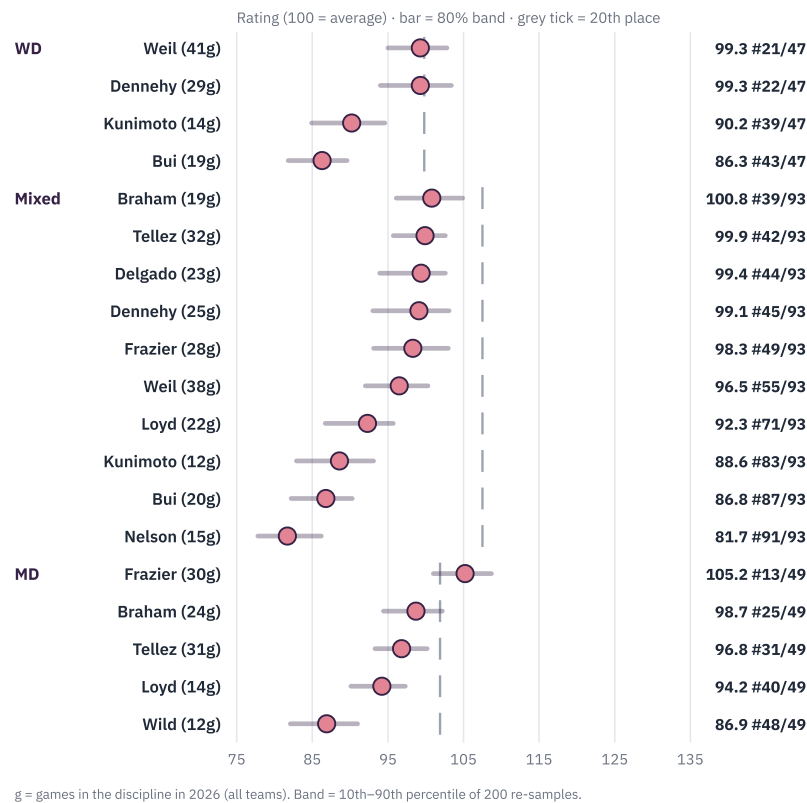
READING

California Black Bears on the league table. 11 California Black Bears players are rated (≥10 games in a discipline in 2026); the best is Dylan Frazier, 38th of 101 overall (102.4).

Neighbouring players' 80% bands usually overlap: treat a gap smaller than the bands as a tie. Players who moved teams in 2026 show '+1' and are highlighted if any of their games were for this team. Conf. = H/M/L from the width of the 80% band. Team "+1" = also played for one other team in 2026 (first team shown). Overall rank uses only disciplines where the player qualifies. Data: data/rating/pkl_v2_by_discipline_2026.csv, pkl_v2_overall_2026.csv.

B3 · THE PKLSTATS RATING V2

California Black Bears players on our rating, by discipline



READING

WD: Weil 99.3 (#21/47), Dennehy 99.3 (#22/47), Kunimoto 90.2 (#39/47), Bui 86.3 (#43/47)

MD: Frazier 105.2 (#13/49), Braham 98.7 (#25/49), Tellez 96.8 (#31/49), Loyd 94.2 (#40/49), Wild 86.9 (#48/49)

Mixed: Braham 100.8 (#39/93), Tellez 99.9 (#42/93), Delgado 99.4 (#44/93), Dennehy 99.1 (#45/93), Frazier 98.3 (#49/93), Weil 96.5 (#55/93), Loyd 92.3 (#71/93), Kunimoto 88.6 (#83/93), Bui 86.8 (#87/93), Nelson 81.7 (#91/93)

Below replacement level (92.1): Kiora Kunimoto WD 90.2, Kiora Kunimoto Mixed 88.6, Joey Wild MD 86.9, Mya Bui Mixed 86.8, Mya Bui WD 86.3, Emma Nelson Mixed 81.7.

Value per dollar: rating points above replacement level (92.1) per \$100k of published 2026 price (league top 6 and California Black Bears)

PLAYER	TEAM	RATING (BAND)	PRICE	PRICE TYPE	PTS ABOVE REPL. PER \$100K
John Lucian Goins	CHI+1	102.9 (97.1–106.2)	\$25,000	keeper price	+43.2
Armaan Bhatia	SoCal	102.2 (97.3–105.8)	\$40,000	keeper price	+25.3
Noe Khlif	NJ	104.7 (100.6–107.5)	\$50,000	keeper price	+25.2
Sofia Sewing	PB	110.5 (106.1–113.4)	\$80,000	keeper price	+23.0
Sahra Dennehy	CAL	99.8 (94.0–103.7)	\$35,000	keeper price	+22.0
Kate Fahey	STL	112.4 (108.6–115.2)	\$130,000	keeper price	+15.6
Dylan Frazier	CAL+2	102.4 (98.1–106.1)	\$170,000	keeper price	+6.1
Anouar Braham	CAL+1	100.2	\$10,000 (keeper price); under \$25k, ratio not shown		
James Delgado	BAY+2	99.9	price not published (cash trade, waiver or keeper price not reported)		
Pablo Tellez	BAY+1	98.9	price not published (cash trade, waiver or keeper price not reported)		
Zoey Weil	CAL+1	98.5	\$10,000 (keeper price); under \$25k, ratio not shown		
Michael Loyd	CAL+2	93.6	price not published (cash trade, waiver or keeper price not reported)		
Kiora Kunimoto	BAY+1	90.0	\$11,000 (keeper price); under \$25k, ratio not shown		
Joey Wild	CAL	87.4	price not published (cash trade, waiver or keeper price not reported)		
Mya Bui	BAY+2	87.0	\$20,000 (keeper price); under \$25k, ratio not shown		
Emma Nelson	CAL+1	82.2	\$21,000 (keeper price); under \$25k, ratio not shown		

READING

Value. Anouar Braham \$10,000 → +81.0 pts per \$100k; Zoey Weil \$10,000 → +64.0 pts per \$100k; Sahra Dennehy \$35,000 → +22.0 pts per \$100k; Dylan Frazier \$170,000 → +6.1 pts per \$100k; Kiora Kunimoto \$11,000 → -19.1 pts per \$100k; Mya Bui \$20,000 → -25.5 pts per \$100k; Emma Nelson \$21,000 → -47.1 pts per \$100k.

Only published prices are used: keeper prices from pickleball.com's 1 Sep 2026 review (K) and 2026 draft bids. Replacement level is 92.1 (20th percentile). Prices under \$25k are left out of the ranked list because tiny prices make the ratio explode.



Roster analysis

End-of-season six (pickleball.com keeper review, 1 Sep 2026), ages from pickleball.com profiles, PickleWave ranks (4 Sept 2026), our rating and all-pro 2026 records.

-
- Players, ages, ratings and 2026 records
 - Age versus usage

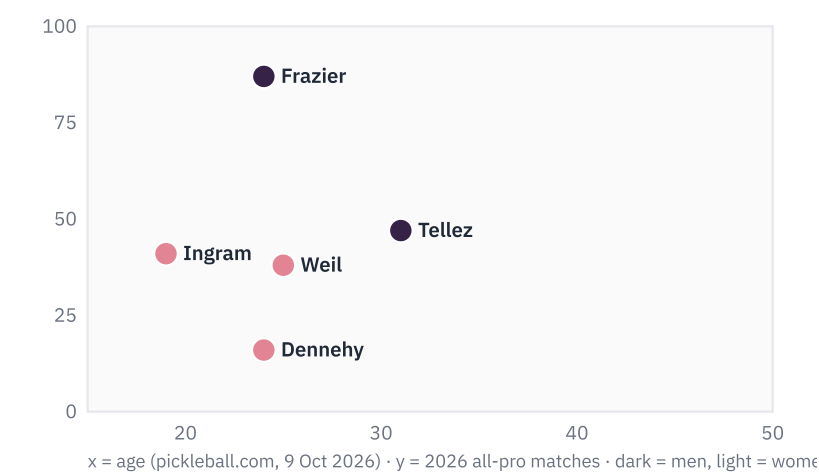
C · ROSTER

The 2026 end-of-season six

PLAYER · HOW ACQUIRED · 2027 STATUS	AGE	PKLSTATS V2	PICKLEWAVE (4 SEP)	2026 ALL-PRO RECORD	MLP 2026 GAMES FOR TEAM
Sahra Dennehy F · Trade (Texas Ranchers) 2027: keepable \$35,000 · possible (K)	24	99.8 #46/101	WD #58 · 1672 MX #72 · 1697	62.5% · 16 matches GD 3–2 MX 3–2 SG 4–2	WD 29 · MD 0 · MX 25
Zoey Weil F · Trade (Florida Smash) 2027: keepable \$10,000 · certain (K)	25	98.5 #51/101	WD #50 · 1709 MX #71 · 1700	47.4% · 38 matches GD 6–7 MX 5–7 SG 7–6	WD 16 · MD 0 · MX 15
Jalina Ingram F · Trade (Chicago Slice) 2027: release implied (K)	19	not rated	—	43.9% · 41 matches GD 4–8 MX 7–8 SG 7–7	WD 0 · MD 0 · MX 1
Dylan Frazier M · Trade (Miami Pickleball Club) 2027: keepable \$170,000 · option / ROFR fallback (K)	24	102.4 #38/101	MD #8 · 2009 MX #54 · 1733	64.4% · 87 matches GD 22–10 MX 17–10 SG 17–11	WD 0 · MD 10 · MX 10
Pablo Tellez M · Trade (Bay Area Breakers) 2027: release implied (K)	31	98.9 #50/101	MD #19 · 1885 MX #66 · 1701	53.2% · 47 matches GD 16–11 MX 8–9 SG 1–2	WD 0 · MD 17 · MX 16
Joey Wild M · acquisition not in PBI reconciliation 2027: release implied (K)	n/p	87.4 #95/101	—	All-pro: not published	WD 0 · MD 12 · MX 9

Ages from pickleball.com player profiles (fetched 9 Oct 2026) or the pickleball.com women's ranking (5 Oct); n/p = not published. PickleWave is an independent rating, not an official tour ranking. Season records are PPA+APP+MLP combined (pickleballinsiders), not MLP alone; GD = gender doubles. PBI's reconstructed end-of-season roster differs: it also lists Martin Emmrich, Luca Mack and omits Joey Wild. We use the keeper review's six (K) and flag the gap.

AGE AND 2026 ALL-PRO USAGE



READING

Weil is the projected keeper and the cheapest asset on the six. Frazier (102.4, 38th) is the best-rated player but costs \$170,000 to keep. Dennehy, 24, sits between them on price and rating. None of the men ranks in our top 30, which is the case for spending on men in 2027.

D

How the team builds its roster

Every 2026 acquisition with published cost, how each turned out, and how the model compares with the finalists.

- Every acquisition and outcome
- Pattern, finalists compared, verdict

D • HOW THE TEAM BUILDS ITS ROSTER

17 moves that built the 2026 roster

WINDOW	PLAYER	AGE	MECHANISM	COST	2026 OUTCOME
Keeper (15 Feb)	Layne Sleeth	25	Kept from 2025 roster	keeper (2026 price not published)	0 games for the team; v2 100.0; left Mar 3 to Texas Ranchers
Draft (27 Feb)	Kiora Kunimoto Draft pool	18	Auction pick #15	\$45,000	14 games for the team; v2 90.0; left Jul 7 to Bay Area Breakers
Draft (27 Feb)	Christopher Haworth Draft pool	33	Auction pick #24	\$30,000	0 games for the team; v2 96.6; left Mar 4 to Brooklyn Pickleball Team
Draft (27 Feb)	Anouar Braham Draft pool	26	Auction pick #28	\$10,000	23 games for the team; v2 100.2; left Jul 14 to Miami Pickleball Club
Draft (27 Feb)	Michael Loyd Draft pool	28	Auction pick #35	\$21,000	10 games for the team; v2 93.6; left Jun 2 to Carolina Hogs
Draft (27 Feb)	Emma Nelson Draft pool	15	Auction pick #37	\$21,000	12 games for the team; v2 82.2; left Jul 13 to Chicago Slice
In-season (Mar 3)	Sahra Dennehy Texas Ranchers	24	Trade	not published	54 games for the team; v2 99.8; on the end-of-season six
In-season (Mar 4)	Luca Mack Brooklyn Pickleball Team	n/p	Trade	not published	0 games for the team; not rated; not on the end-of-season six
In-season (Jun 2)	Connor Mogle Carolina Hogs	27	Trade	not published	0 games for the team; v2 95.6; left Jun 2 to waived
In-season (Jun 2)	James Delgado waiver claim	23	Waiver claim	not published	6 games for the team; v2 99.9; left Jul 7 to Bay Area Breakers
In-season (Jul 7)	Mya Bui Bay Area Breakers	27	Trade	not published	1 games for the team; v2 87.0; left Jul 13 to Florida Smash
In-season (Jul 7)	Pablo Tellez Bay Area Breakers	31	Trade	not published	33 games for the team; v2 98.9; on the end-of-season six

5 further moves not shown (full list in data/teams/pbi_teams.json). Keepers, picks and transactions from pickleballinsiders' reconciliation of league logs (modified 4 Sep 2026); draft bids from The Kitchen live blog (27 Feb 2026). Trade cash and waiver costs are not published. Outcome = official MLP games for this team in 2026 and PKLStats Rating v2.

KNOWN 2026 DRAFT-AUCTION SPEND, ALL 20 TEAMS



2026 auction bids per The Kitchen live blog (27 Feb 2026); keepers, cash trades and waivers not included.

READING

California spent \$127,000 on 5 picks and traded all five during the season. The 11 in-season arrivals averaged 97.4 on v2 against 92.5 for the picks, so the trading improved the roster on paper without changing the result.

D • PATTERN AND VERDICT

How the model compares with the finalists

CALIFORNIA BLACK BEARS • 13TH • 31 PTS • MISSED PLAYOFFS Kept (1): Layne Sleeth. Draft: #15 Kunimoto \$45,000 • #24 Haworth \$30,000 • #28 Braham \$10,000 • #35 Loyd \$21,000 • #37 Nelson \$21,000. In-season (11 in): Sahra Dennehy (Mar 3), Luca Mack (Mar 4), Connor Mogle (Jun 2), James Delgado (Jun 2) and 7 more. Regular season: 11–15; known auction spend \$127,000.	NEW JERSEY 5S • 1ST • 118 PTS • CHAMPIONS Kept (3): Anna Leigh Waters, Noe Khlif, Will Howells. Draft: #2 Jorja Johnson \$800,000 • #58 M. Emmrich \$2,000 • #64 Padegimaite \$1,000. In-season (2 in): Federico Staksrud (Jul 20), Milan Rane (Jul 20). Regular season: 25–3; known auction spend \$803,000.	ST. LOUIS SHOCK • 2ND • 111 PTS • RUNNERS-UP Kept (3): Kate Fahey, Hayden Patriquin, Gabe Tardio. Draft: #1 Bright \$1.23m • #29 Goins \$25,000 • #30 Hendershot \$28,000. In-season (2 in): Hunter Johnson (Jun 24), Angie Walker (Jun 24). Regular season: 25–3; known auction spend \$1.28m.
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Verdict: does the model work? Partly. The churn upgraded the roster on our rating but not the results, and every 2026 pick was gone by the end of the season. The part that worked, finding Weil and Dennehy cheaply, is the right foundation for a capped auction. The part that did not, men's doubles, is where the money should go.

KEEP / DIFFER FOR 2027 Keep: Cheap women's doubles evaluation: Weil and Dennehy are both worth keeping on price. Differ: Fewer, bigger moves. Spend the room on two starting men rather than on another round of trades, and use the ROFR on Frazier only if the bidding stays low.

E

Needs for the 2027 off-season

Three ranked needs, named 2027 candidates for each with evidence and availability under the proposed rules, and a predicted line-up.

-
- Three priority needs
-
- 2027 target shortlists with availability
-
- Predicted 2027 line-up

E • NEEDS

Three needs for the 2027 off-season

The 2027 player market is shaped by a forced release of 2024 draftees league-wide and by proposed acquisition-cap rules that were not final as of 9 October 2026. Needs are ranked by the rating of the starters California Black Bears is projected to lose, the 2026 discipline rank, and whether a weak starter stays; starter needs rank above the mixed-capable third-player need. The same rule is applied to all 20 teams.

NEED AND PROFILE	WHY (FROM CALIFORNIA BLACK BEARS' 2026 DATA)	WINDOW	CONFIDENCE
1 Two starting men for MD Both 2026 MD starters leave under keeper reporting; the MD pair has to be rebuilt.	Men's doubles was the problem at 9–17 (16th). The pairings changed with the roster, and the men left at the end, Pablo Tellez and Joey Wild, are off the keeper list. Dylan Frazier can be kept, but at \$170,000 the review treats him as a ROFR fallback rather than a starter to lock in. Two starting men is the main spend.	2027 draft (April 2027, proposed rules); or ROFR on a released starter	High
2 WD partner for Weil Starter-level woman for WD who can also play mixed.	Weil and Sahra Dennehy went 8–8 together, a .500 pair on a .500 line. Dennehy can be kept at \$35,000, but keeping both women takes California out of the bidding for any other starting woman, the trade-off the review sets out. The choice is continuity at a known price or an upgrade at an unknown one.	2027 draft (April 2027, proposed rules); or ROFR on a released starter	Medium-high
3 Mixed-capable third man A man who plays mixed and can cover MD and the DreamBreaker; a 5th/6th slot, not a paper roster spot.	Frazier, after arriving from Miami on 14 July, was the third man: ten mixed and ten men's doubles games. None of the three men is a projected keeper, so the third man has to come from the auction or waivers.	2027 draft (5th/6th slot) or waiver	Medium-high

ALSO WATCHED (NOT PRIORITIES)

ROFR designation: keeper reporting raises it for Dylan Frazier.
Keeper calls the article leaves open: Dylan Frazier (option / ROFR fallback, \$170,000), Sahra Dennehy (possible, \$35,000).
Named targets follow on the next two pages. Availability is taken from published keeper reporting and is conditional: the 2027 rules are still proposals.

What the general manager will ask of any proposal. Does this use a starter slot or a 5th/6th slot under the final 2027 rules? What is the acquisition-cap charge, and does it leave room for a second starter? Is the player clearly better, on our rating and tour evidence, than the 2026 incumbent in that discipline? Can the deal be timed to the draft versus a trade window? If it is a ROFR recommendation, what competing bid do we expect to have to match?

E • 2027 TARGET SHORTLISTS

Who fills the needs, and can California Black Bears get them?

No final 2027 rules exist as of 9 October 2026, so every "available" here **depends on** them. Candidates: stated or implied releases (**K**) plus rated non-roster players (value board). Shortlists are sized to what California Black Bears can afford: about \$990,000 of room under the proposed \$1m cap after projected keepers, so up to \$918,020 for one stretch target and about \$320,068 per starter slot. Picks discount players already on other lists. Prices are PKLStats estimates, not reported fees. Players whose former team is predicted to use its ROFR (K) appear only on that team's list.

NEED 1 • TWO STARTING MEN FOR MD

CANDIDATE • RATING (80% BAND) RANK, CONF.	2026 MLP EVIDENCE (OFFICIAL RESULTS)	RANKING (DATED)	2027 AVAILABILITY (K)	FIT FOR CALIFORNIA BLACK BEARS
1. Ben Johns Los Angeles Mad Drops • age 27 MD 125.9 (121–128) #1 H All 125.2 (121–127) #2 H	MD 28–7 (80%, 57.9% of points). Mixed 26–8 (76%, 59.9% of points). on/off Mixed +2.74 (15th of 139).	PickleWave MD #1, Mixed #2 (4 Sep)	Not named among Los Angeles Mad Drops' keepable players (K); release implied, not stated . "LA's big decision will be whether to exercise their right of first refusal on Johns" (K). Article lean: ROFR question . Depends on Los Angeles Mad Drops' one ROFR and the final 2027 rules.	Stretch target . +29.1 vs Tellez (96.8). PKLStats est. 2027 price \$800,000 (80% \$429,819–\$800,000). on 12 teams' lists.
2. Hayden Patriquin St. Louis Shock • age 21 MD 115.0 (112–117) #5 H All 114.6 (112–116) #10 H	MD 31–7 (82%, 64.5% of points). Mixed 29–8 (78%, 63.2% of points). on/off Mixed +0.58 (62nd of 139).	PickleWave MD #4, Mixed #13 (4 Sep)	St. Louis Shock: "Everyone else will be released" (K). Depends on St. Louis Shock's one ROFR and the final 2027 rules.	Priced for the slot . +18.2 vs Tellez (96.8). PKLStats est. 2027 price \$288,333 (80% \$62,956–\$800,000). on 12 teams' lists.
3. Andrei Daescu Columbus Sliders • age 38 MD 113.1 (110–116) #6 H All 114.7 (111–117) #9 H	MD 23–13 (64%, 52.3% of points). Mixed 25–11 (69%, 58.4% of points). on/off Mixed +1.10 (44th of 139).	PickleWave MD #3, Mixed #4 (4 Sep)	Not named among Columbus Sliders' keepable players (K); release implied, not stated . Depends on Columbus Sliders' one ROFR and the final 2027 rules.	Priced for the slot . +16.3 vs Tellez (96.8). PKLStats est. 2027 price \$293,655 (80% \$62,998–\$800,000). on 10 teams' lists.
4. Dekel Bar Palm Beach Royals • age 33 MD 102.6 (98–106) #18 M All 104.0 (99–107) #33 H	MD 12–17 (41%, 45.5% of points). Mixed 18–10 (64%, 55.1% of points). on/off Mixed +1.94 (29th of 139).	PickleWave MD #25, Mixed #24 (4 Sep)	Not named among Palm Beach Royals' keepable players (K); release implied, not stated . Depends on Palm Beach Royals' one ROFR and the final 2027 rules.	Value pick . +5.8 vs Tellez (96.8); bands overlap. PKLStats est. 2027 price \$41,494 (80% \$8,902–\$193,421). on 6 teams' lists.
5. Pablo Tellez California Black Bears • age 31 MD 96.8 (93–100) #31 H All 98.9 (95–102) #50 H	MD 13–18 (42%, 43.0% of points). Mixed 12–20 (38%, 48.0% of points). on/off Mixed +2.22 (24th of 139).	PickleWave MD #19, Mixed #66 (4 Sep)	Not named among California Black Bears' keepable players (K); release implied, not stated . Depends on California Black Bears' one ROFR and the final 2027 rules.	Own player : the only route back is California Black Bears' one ROFR. PKLStats est. 2027 price \$18,922 (80% \$4,059–\$88,205). on 5 teams' lists.

NEED 2 • WD PARTNER FOR WEIL

CANDIDATE • RATING (80% BAND) RANK, CONF.	2026 MLP EVIDENCE (OFFICIAL RESULTS)	RANKING (DATED)	2027 AVAILABILITY (K)	FIT FOR CALIFORNIA BLACK BEARS
1. Tyra Hurricane Black Columbus Sliders • age 25 WD 115.8 (112–119) #4 H All 116.1 (112–120) #8 H	WD 18–7 (72%, 62.4% of points). Mixed 13–8 (62%, 56.9% of points). on/off WD +3.52 (5th of 139).	WPR women #4 (wk 5 Oct). PickleWave WD #4, Mixed #6 (4 Sep)	Not named among Columbus Sliders' keepable players (K); release implied, not stated . Depends on Columbus Sliders' one ROFR and the final 2027 rules.	Stretch target . +16.5 vs Dennehy (99.3). PKLStats est. 2027 price \$379,343 (80% \$81,380–\$800,000). on 11 teams' lists.
2. Parris Todd Columbus Sliders • age 28 WD 112.9 (109–115) #5 H All 112.9 (109–115) #12 H	WD 19–7 (73%, 62.4% of points). Mixed 17–7 (71%, 58.0% of points). on/off WD +3.92 (4th of 139).	WPR women #6 (wk 5 Oct). PickleWave WD #6, Mixed #18 (4 Sep)	Not named among Columbus Sliders' keepable players (K); release implied, not stated . Depends on Columbus Sliders' one ROFR and the final 2027 rules.	Priced for the slot . +13.6 vs Dennehy (99.3). PKLStats est. 2027 price \$211,287 (80% \$45,327–\$800,000). on 11 teams' lists.
3. Tina Pisknik Palm Beach Royals • age 45 WD 110.5 (106–114) #8 H All 110.5 (106–114) #16 H	WD 27–9 (75%, 58.5% of points). Mixed 21–15 (58%, 52.8% of points). on/off Mixed +0.70 (56th of 139).	WPR women #9 (wk 5 Oct). PickleWave WD #3, Mixed #15 (4 Sep)	Not named among Palm Beach Royals' keepable players (K); release implied, not stated . Depends on Palm Beach Royals' one ROFR and the final 2027 rules.	Priced for the slot . +11.2 vs Dennehy (99.3). PKLStats est. 2027 price \$136,224 (80% \$29,224–\$634,988). on 9 teams' lists.
4. Jade Kawamoto Los Angeles Mad Drops • age 30 WD 107.2 (103–110) #11 H All 106.7 (103–109) #22 H	WD 21–15 (58%, 53.2% of points). Mixed 27–8 (77%, 60.4% of points). on/off Mixed +3.10 (11th of 139).	WPR women #18 (wk 5 Oct). PickleWave WD #8, Mixed #34 (4 Sep)	Not named among Los Angeles Mad Drops' keepable players (K); release implied, not stated . "Freeman is the only possible keeper" (K). Article lean: ROFR possible . Depends on Los Angeles Mad Drops' one ROFR and the final 2027 rules.	Value pick . +7.9 vs Dennehy (99.3); bands overlap. PKLStats est. 2027 price \$67,989 (80% \$14,586–\$316,921). on 5 teams' lists.
5. Etta Tuionetoa Utah Black Diamonds • age 33 WD 104.2 (100–107) #16 H All 105.4 (101–108) #26 H	WD 12–18 (40%, 48.3% of points). Mixed 17–11 (61%, 51.3% of points). on/off Mixed +1.25 (42nd of 139).	WPR women #26 (wk 5 Oct). PickleWave WD #15, Mixed #38 (4 Sep)	Utah Black Diamonds: "Tuionetoa and Jones cannot be kept ... Utah could think about exercising their right of first refusal on one of them" (K). Depends on Utah Black Diamonds' one ROFR and the final 2027 rules. MLP eligibility: likely eligible (2026 MLP roster; no contract record to confirm 2027).	Value pick . +4.9 vs Dennehy (99.3); bands overlap. PKLStats est. 2027 price \$53,602 (80% \$11,499–\$249,861). on 5 teams' lists.

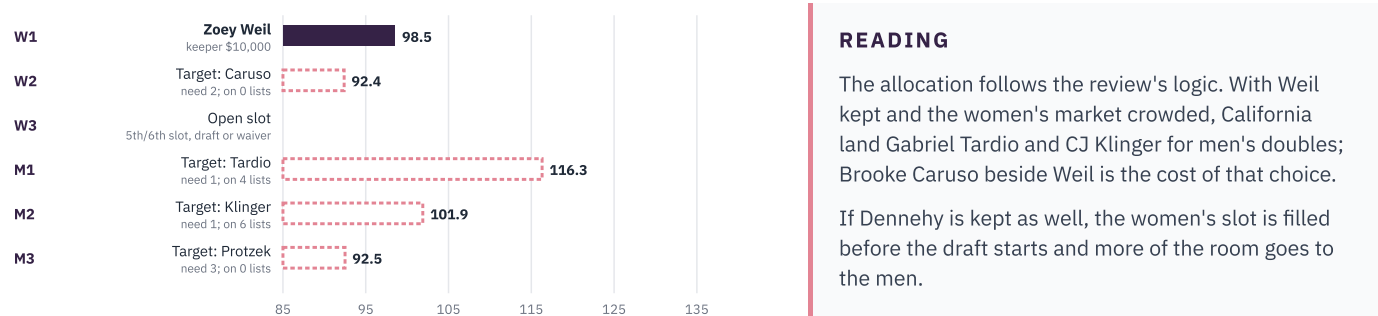
(K) pickleball.com keeper review, 1 Sep 2026. WPR = pickleball.com women's ranking, 5 Oct. PickleWave: pickleballinsiders, 4 Sep. Ages: pickleball.com profiles, 9 Oct. "On n of 20 teams' lists" = PKLStats dossiers shortlisting the player.

E · 2027 TARGET SHORTLISTS

NEED 3 · MIXED-CAPABLE THIRD MAN

CANDIDATE · RATING (80% BAND) RANK, CONF.	2026 MLP EVIDENCE (OFFICIAL RESULTS)	RANKING (DATED)	2027 AVAILABILITY (K)	FIT FOR CALIFORNIA BLACK BEARS
1. Matt Wright Non-MLP (tour) · age 49 MX 100.4 (97–102) ext. H All 101.9 (98–104) ext. H	No 2026 MLP games. Tour: 95 doubles matches 2025–26 (PickleWave).	Not in captured rankings	Not on a 2026 MLP roster (tour results only), so no team holds a ROFR; 2027 status not published. Depends on the final 2027 rules. MLP eligibility: likely eligible (UPA-signed per DinkBank; no 2026 MLP roster).	Priced for the slot. PKLStats est. 2027 price \$28,262 (80% \$6,063–\$131,738). on 6 teams' lists.
2. James Delgado Miami Pickleball Club · age 23 MX 99.4 (94–103) #44 M All 99.9 (94–103) #45 M	Mixed 12–11 (52%, 49.4% of points). MD 0–2 (0%, 35.3% of points). on/off Mixed +1.34 (41st of 139).	Not in captured rankings	Not named among Miami Pickleball Club's keepable players (K); release implied, not stated . Depends on Miami Pickleball Club's one ROFR and the final 2027 rules.	Priced for the slot. PKLStats est. 2027 price \$19,869 (80% \$4,262–\$92,616). on 4 teams' lists.
3. Casey Diamond Palm Beach Royals · age 27 MX 96.8 (91–101) #54 M All 97.0 (92–101) #59 M	Mixed 12–9 (57%, 51.0% of points). MD 6–8 (43%, 44.6% of points). on/off MD +0.47 (65th of 139).	PickleWave MD #54, Mixed #19 (4 Sep)	Not named among Palm Beach Royals' keepable players (K); release implied, not stated . Depends on Palm Beach Royals' one ROFR and the final 2027 rules.	Value pick. PKLStats est. 2027 price \$17,247 (80% \$3,700–\$80,394). on 2 teams' lists.
4. Julian Arnold Non-MLP (tour) · age 35 MX 96.7 (93–100) ext. H All 96.7 (93–100) ext. H	No 2026 MLP games. Tour: 94 doubles matches 2025–26 (PickleWave).	Not in captured rankings	Not on a 2026 MLP roster (tour results only), so no team holds a ROFR; 2027 status not published. Depends on the final 2027 rules. MLP eligibility: likely eligible (UPA-signed per DinkBank; no 2026 MLP roster).	Value pick. PKLStats est. 2027 price \$16,996 (80% \$3,646–\$79,226). on 2 teams' lists.
5. Martin Emmrich Roster disputed (CAL per PBI, not K) · age 41 MX 96.2 (92–99) ext. H All 97.1 (93–100) ext. H	No 2026 MLP games. Tour: 79 doubles matches 2025–26 (PickleWave).	PickleWave MD #63, Mixed #89 (4 Sep)	Roster status disputed: on California Black Bears' end-of-season roster per pickleballinsiders and GoodDay Pickleball, but not among the keeper review's six (K) and no 2026 MLP games; 2027 status not published. Depends on whether California Black Bears holds the player's rights (and its one ROFR) and the final 2027 rules. MLP eligibility: likely eligible (UPA-signed per DinkBank; roster disputed, no 2026 MLP games).	Value pick. PKLStats est. 2027 price \$17,247 (80% \$3,700–\$80,394). on 5 teams' lists.

Predicted 2027 line-up: who stays, where the gaps are



Targets shown come from one budget-aware league-wide allocation: no player is predicted for two teams, own ROFR where keeper reporting predicts it, then teams take turns in reverse order of 2026 regular-season win % (the 2027 order is not published), best-rated untaken player whose estimated price fits the remaining room. Illustrative only.

2027 RULES AS PUBLISHED (STATUS 9 OCTOBER 2026)

Proposed, not final (pickleball.com, 21 Jul 2026, from a copy of the proposed rules):

\$1m player-acquisition cap and \$500k floor.

A per-player cap somewhere in the \$600–800k range.

No franchise tag. Instead each team may designate one released player and match that player's winning bid (ROFR).

Every 2024 draftee must be released after 2026.

Keepers (pickleball.com, 1 Sep 2026): "Current rule is you can only keep up to two of the same gender." The draft is in April 2027. "Some players currently on MLP rosters will not likely play MLP in 2027," so contract status may remove names.

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METHOD AND CAVEATS

Method and caveats

Method

Facts. Ownership, staff, roster, transactions, keepers, draft bids and format rules from the team's own site or league/press releases where we could fetch them, plus pickleballinsiders' team reconciliation, The Kitchen draft live blog and pickleball.com (fetched 8–9 Oct 2026). Every fact carries its source in data/teams/facts.json.

Standings. Season points from pickleballinsiders.com/mlp-2026/ (data/standings_2026.json); event finishes from MLP's official per-event standings.

Results. Every 2026 matchup and game captured on 8 Oct 2026 from MLP's official scores feed: 13 events, 334 matchups, 1,368 games. Section B's records, splits, ranks and pairings are our arithmetic on those files. Playoff paths come from the same file, not from recaps.

Recent seasons. 2024 and 2025 W–L and playoff matchups computed from MLP's official 2024–25 game files; positions, points and titles from Forbes and pickleball.com articles. Franchise lineage (renames, relocations, the D.C./Brooklyn name swap) from the sources in section A.

Roster and 2027 status. The end-of-season six and every keeper status come from one table (data/teams/keepers_2027.csv) transcribed from pickleball.com's 1 Sep 2026 review, so availability reads the same in every dossier.

Team colours. California Black Bears: primary #352246, accent #E38494 (logo; PKLStats neutral used for tint). Contrast checked: primary on white 14.3:1.

Reproducibility. team/build_team.sh california-black-bears regenerates this dossier from the files under /workspace/mlp/data.

Caveats

Computed W–L. MLP publishes no season W–L table. Teams played 23–28 matchups, so ranks use win %.

Carolina and Phoenix. They have no published season total; league charts use their per-event sums.

Provisional position. Positions 13–18 in the published table are provisional; Bay Area and Florida are tied 17th on 15 points.

Not published: head coach (no fetched source names one).

Conflicting sources: Conflicting: Good Day Pickleball lists owner Ritchie Tuazon as GM; pickleball.com (1 Sep 2026) calls Erik Tice "GM of the California Black Bears".

Roster reconciliation. pickleballinsiders' end-of-season roster lists Martin Emmrich, Luca Mack, which the 1 Sep keeper review does not; league transaction logs do not fully reconcile for every team.

Ages not found on pickleball.com for Joey Wild.

DreamBreakers. MLP's game rows name only the first-listed player.

2027 rules are proposals (pickleball.com, 21 Jul 2026). Data is a starting point, not a replacement for video and live scouting.

SOURCES (FETCHED)

- https://gooddaypickleball.com/teams/california-black-bears
- https://pickleball.com/news/mlp-2027-a-look-ahead-to-next-season-for-all-20-teams (1 Sep 2026)
- https://pickleballinsiders.com/mlp/california-black-bears/ (modified 4 Sep 2026)
- https://majorleaguepickleball.co/news/major-league-pickleball-announces-2026-player-keepers/
- https://thekitchenpickle.com/blogs/news/2026-major-league-pickleball-draft-live-updates/
- https://majorleaguepickleball.co/events-2026/ (official scores feed, captured 8 Oct 2026)
- https://pickleballinsiders.com/mlp-2026-teams/
- https://pickleball.com/news/big-changes-coming-in-2027-to-mlp-draft-process (21 Jul 2026)
- Forbes (Todd Boss) 25 Nov 2024 and 15/25 Aug 2025; pickleball.com 27–28 Oct 2024 (recent seasons)
- https://majorleaguepickleball.co/ team menu (logo; colours in data/teams/colours.json)

All analysis uses published sources listed above. Prepared by PKLStats for Chris Beaumont. Confidential and not for onward distribution.

METHOD AND CAVEATS (CONTINUED)

Measures, needs and shortlists

Method

B2 measures. Four measures, computed for all 20 teams from the official game file (data/measures/, README.md).

- **On/off:** the team's game win % and points per game with and without each player, by discipline, across all 2026 doubles games.
- **Chemistry:** a pair's result against the average of each partner's results with other partners; pairs reported only if both have ≥ 5 games with others.
- **Schedule:** Bradley-Terry ratings on 1,100 regular-season games.
- **Luck:** a pythagorean expectation with $k = 4.4$ fitted on the league, plus 2-point games and DreamBreakers.

Needs (same rule for all 20 teams). For each gender, the two players with most gender-doubles games are the starters. A need scores 1 point per starter not projected to be kept, plus that starter's rating above replacement $\div 5$, plus up to 3 points for a low 2026 discipline rank, plus 1 if a staying starter rates below 100. The best mixed / third-player need is added; the top three are shown. Window and confidence follow from whether the departure is stated or implied.

Shortlists. Candidates are players whose keeper status (K) is "cannot / will not be kept", "release implied" or "keepable but not expected to be kept", ranked by PKLStats Rating v2 in the need's discipline (overall if not qualified). The team's own departing starter is always shown as the ROFR route. Third-player lists leave out the ten best-rated players of that gender in the pool. Evidence: data/measures/player_lines_2026.csv, on/off and chemistry tables, WPR (5 Oct), PickleWave (4 Sep), pickleball.com ages (9 Oct).

We tested Real Clear Stats' Player Impact+ ratings as an input; they did not improve out-of-sample predictions, so they carry no weight in the PKLStats Rating.

Caveats

Proposed rules. Cap, floor, per-player cap and ROFR are proposals. Keeper eligibility comes from press reporting, not an MLP publication. All availability is "depends on".

Shared market. The same released players appear on many teams' lists; only one team can sign each. Counts of how many dossiers list a player are shown in the fit column.

Small samples. 23–28 regular-season matchups per team. On/off samples under 10 games and pairs under 10 games are flagged. Players who never sit or pairs that never split cannot be separated.

Rankings. The men's October world ranking could not be captured (the site blocked automated rendering of the men's tab). PickleWave is only shown for players on a pickleballinsiders end-of-season roster. Prices of released players are not known until the April 2027 auction.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES

- <https://pickleball.com/news/mlp-2027-a-look-ahead-to-next-season-for-all-20-teams> (1 Sep 2026)
- <https://pickleball.com/rankings> (women, week 5 Oct 2026)
- <https://pickleball.com/players/<slug>> (ages, fetched 9 Oct 2026; data/teams/ages.csv)
- <https://pickleballinsiders.com/mlp/california-black-bears/> (roster, PickleWave, transactions)
- <https://thekitchenpickle.com/blogs/news/2026-major-league-pickleball-draft-live-updates/>

METHOD AND CAVEATS (CONTINUED)

The PKLStats Rating v2

Method

Games. 3,890 official MLP doubles games, 2024–2026, with both line-ups listed (DreamBreakers excluded: the feed names only the first player). 2024 margins $\times 11/25$ (rally to 25). Qualifying: ≥ 10 games in the discipline in 2026.

Model. Weighted ridge regression on each game's point margin: a common strength per player plus a WD/MD/mixed offset (penalties 16 and 64). Game weight halves every 120 days before 31 Aug 2026.

Tour prior. The same model on PPA/APP/US national doubles wins and losses (96 events, Jan 2024–May 2026; 2-year half-life). Each player's common strength is pulled towards $6 \times$ their tour rating instead of towards zero. All 101 rated players have tour matches. A DUPR/Elo fallback for players without tour data is built in but was not needed.

Settings chosen on 2024–25 only (half-life, penalties, prior weight, structure), by how well earlier games predicted later 2024–25 games. 2026 was the final test.

Scale and bands. Rating = $100 + 10 \times z$ over qualifying player-disciplines; overall = games-weighted mean, re-standardised. Bands: 200 re-samples of MLP games and tour matches.

Value per dollar. (rating – 92.2) per \$100k of published price; 92.2 is the 20th percentile of overall rating.

What changed from v1. Tour prior, recency weighting and shared strength added. Biggest moves: John Lucian Goins Mixed #74→#40, Max Freeman MD #8→#35, Layne Sleeth Mixed #21→#46. v1 tables: data/rating/mar_*.csv.

Caveats

Tour data are third-party and incomplete. PickleWave lists 139 PPA/APP/US national events for 2024–26 but shows matches for 96; nothing after early May 2026. Results are win/loss only (game scores need one page per match).

The tour weight is large. A player's MLP results move them away from their tour level slowly. That is why v2 predicts better, but it also means a player who is better in MLP than on tour is rated conservatively.

Prices are not salaries. They are published keeper prices or 2026 draft bids. Released players' 2027 prices are unknown until the April 2027 auction. Cash-trade and waiver costs were not published.

2027 is a new roster. The rating describes form at the end of the 2026 season. Age is not modelled.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES (RATING)

- data/tour/tour_matches.csv: 12,184 doubles results from PickleWave's public tournament pages (picklewave.com/tournaments/...), fetched 9 Oct 2026
- https://pickleball.com/news/mlp-2027-a-look-ahead-to-next-season-for-all-20-teams (keeper prices, 1 Sep 2026)
- https://thekitchenpickle.com/blogs/news/2026-major-league-pickleball-draft-live-updates/ (2026 draft bids)
- data/rating/costs_published_2026.csv (every price with its source)

TRACK RECORD (BACK-TESTS AND BENCHMARKS, V2, 9 OCT 2026)

Each cell: correlation with game margin · winners called · Brier score (lower is better; coin flip 0.250). Brackets: 90% bootstrap interval. Settings were chosen on 2024–25 games, so the 2026 rows are the fair test.

BACK-TEST (GAMES)	V2	V1	BRIER V2 – V1	2026 2ND HALF (256 G) VS 10 JUL VALUES	SCORE
2024 → 2025 (1,345, tuning)	0.55 · 71% · 0.188	0.25 · 58% · 0.239	-0.051 [-0.060, -0.042]	PKLStats v2 (2025 + 1st half)	0.56 · 76% · 0.174
2025 → 2026 (1,297)	0.57 · 72% · 0.180	0.45 · 66% · 0.208	-0.028 [-0.034, -0.021]	PKLStats v1 (2025 + 1st half)	0.51 · 71% · 0.185
2026 1st half → 2nd (613)	0.54 · 73% · 0.186	0.44 · 67% · 0.208	-0.022 [-0.031, -0.015]	DUPR (via PickleWave)	0.48 · 72% · 0.191
2025 + 2026 1st → 2nd (613)	0.55 · 73% · 0.185	0.49 · 68% · 0.198	-0.013 [-0.020, -0.007]	PickleWave Elo	0.48 · 75% · 0.189
				Blend: v2 + DUPR	0.56 · 75% · 0.173

Plainly: v2 beats v1 in every test, mostly thanks to the tour starting values. On the 2026 second half it now beats DUPR (Brier -0.017 [-0.031, -0.003]) and PickleWave Elo (-0.015 [-0.026, -0.005]) on games where both have values; it calls about as many winners as Elo. Blending helped only marginally with DUPR (-0.001 [-0.003, +0.000]), not at all in a cross-fitted check, and made things worse with Elo, so forecasts use v2 alone. That choice was made after seeing 2026. Retrospective 2026 playoffs and Finals dry run: v2 Brier 0.205 vs v1 0.216, but fewer winners called (67% vs 69% of 91 games; matchups 67% vs 83% of 24). Tracker calibrated on 5,917 games.

PKLStats

California Black Bears team profile · Chris Beaumont · 9 October 2026

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