

2026 PHL PLAYOFFS

Round 1 Recap | September 15, 2026



Round 1: The Bracket Gets Blown Open

Round 1 delivered two sweeps by lower seeds, two three-game series and one result that immediately entered the league's historical conversation. **#8 Orbital Bombardment swept #1 Not Fast, Just Furious 2-0**, eliminating the 37-17 Best Regular Season Record winner after Orbital entered the postseason at just 9-45. **#6 Steel the Point** supplied the other major upset by sweeping 33-21 Keep Their Heads Ringin' 2-0. The two remaining favorites survived: Whole Lotta Pitches and Ring a Ling each advanced 2-1.

Round 1 Results

Series	Result	Game Scores	Round 1 Standout
#2 WLP vs #7 Dark Horse	WLP 2-1	23-7, 13-21, 23-15	Jake 33 pts Casey 32
#3 KTHR vs #6 Steel	Steel 2-0	21-13, 21-7	Larry 25 pts Tom 20
#1 NFJF vs #8 Orbital	Orbital 2-0	22-18, 21-18	Casi 27 pts Matt 16
#4 Ring a Ling vs #5 Precious	Ring 2-1	13-23, 21-16, 22-10	Sean 47 pts 12 R 2 D

An Upset for the History Books

Orbital's win has a strong case as **the greatest single-round upset in PHL history**. NFJF entered as the true No. 1 overall seed at 37-17 (.685); Orbital was the true No. 8 seed at 9-45 (.167). That is a 28-win gap and a .518 difference in winning percentage - and the underdog did not need a deciding game. Orbital won 22-18 and 21-18 to complete the sweep. The league has seen remarkable Cinderella runs, most notably the 40 Ft. Beasts' 2014 championship run, but no available single-series comparison combines a more extreme best-team-versus-worst-team regular-season disparity with a sweep.

Casi Santos supplied the defining moment. His double was the first of the 2026 playoffs, and it arrived with much of the league watching. The audible clank of his ringer hitting the stake was followed by an immediate reaction from the crowd. More importantly, the double shifted the momentum and put additional pressure on NFJF at a point from which the top seed never recovered. Casi finished the series with **27 points, seven ringers and the double - 13.50 PPG after averaging 5.93 during the regular season.**

Milestones and Round 1 Leaders

CASEY SANTOS 1,023 official playoff points 303 official playoff singles	SEAN GOMES 47 Round 1 points 685 official career playoff points	LARRY KITCHEN 25 points in 2 games 12.50 PPG in Steel's sweep
Casey joined his father Gerry as the only two players to reach 1,000 officially recorded career playoff points and became the first player in the recorded database to reach 300 playoff singles.	Sean's 47-point series moved him past Chris Kelly (674) and Bobby Almeida (682) into third place on the officially recorded career playoff scoring list.	Larry's postseason jump was one of Round 1's biggest. His 25 points led Steel the Point as the No. 6 seed eliminated No. 3 KTHR without dropping a game.

Pegasus Horseshoe League - 2026 Playoffs

ROUND 2 PREVIEW

September 22, 2026 | Four teams remain - and both semifinals are loaded with history

The Final Four

Team	Seed	Regular Season	Round 1	Round 1 Scoring
Orbital Bombardment	8	9-45	2-0 vs #1 NFJF	Casi 13.50 Matt 8.00
Ring a Ling	4	28-26	2-1 vs #5 Precious	Sean 15.67 Chad 5.00
Steel the Point	6	25-29	2-0 vs #3 KTHR	Larry 12.50 Tom 10.00
Whole Lotta Pitches	2	33-21	2-1 vs #7 Dark	Jake 11.00 Casey 10.67

#8 Orbital Bombardment vs #4 Ring a Ling

#8 ORBITAL BOMBARDMENT	#4 RING A LING
Matt Lynch: 8.24 reg. PPG 8.00 playoff PPG Casi Santos: 5.93 reg. PPG 13.50 playoff PPG Round 1: swept #1 NFJF 2-0	Sean Gomes: 13.24 reg. PPG 15.67 playoff PPG Chad Wilson: 4.73 reg. PPG 5.00 playoff PPG Round 1: beat #5 Precious Cargo 2-1
The Cinderella story now runs directly into one of the league's hottest postseason scorers. Orbital arrives with enormous confidence after eliminating the top seed, while Sean Gomes enters Round 2 after a 47-point opening series with 12 ringers and two doubles. The matchup also reunites former Lynch Mob partners Sean and Matt on opposite sides . Their 2025 Lynch Mob team went 40-14 and owned the league's best regular-season record. Now Matt is trying to extend one of the most improbable playoff runs in PHL history, while Sean is trying to end it. A Ring a Ling victory would send Sean to the second PHL Finals appearance of his career.	

CAN THE CINDERELLA RUN CONTINUE? Orbital has already removed the No. 1 seed. To reach the Finals, the 9-45 regular-season team must now get through Sean Gomes and Ring a Ling - a team that survived its own three-game Round 1 test and carries the highest-scoring player left in the bracket.

#6 Steel the Point vs #2 Whole Lotta Pitches

#6 STEEL THE POINT	#2 WHOLE LOTTA PITCHES
Tom Wolfe: 12.44 reg. PPG 10.00 playoff PPG Larry Kitchen: 7.47 reg. PPG 12.50 playoff PPG Round 1: swept #3 KTHR 2-0	Casey Santos: 13.37 reg. PPG 10.67 playoff PPG Jake Duperre: 7.63 reg. PPG 11.00 playoff PPG Round 1: beat #7 Dark Horse 2-1
This semifinal brings another former partnership back together as opponents. Casey Santos and Tom Wolfe were the 'Beast Mode' pairing that won the 2019 PHL championship together and returned with another strong postseason in 2020 before falling short of a repeat. Six years later, they meet with a trip to the Finals on the line. Steel enters with momentum after a decisive sweep, powered by Larry Kitchen's 25 points. WLP survived a three-game test against Dark Horse behind a balanced 65 points from Jake Duperre and Casey. Casey also enters Round 2 having just crossed two major officially recorded career playoff milestones.	

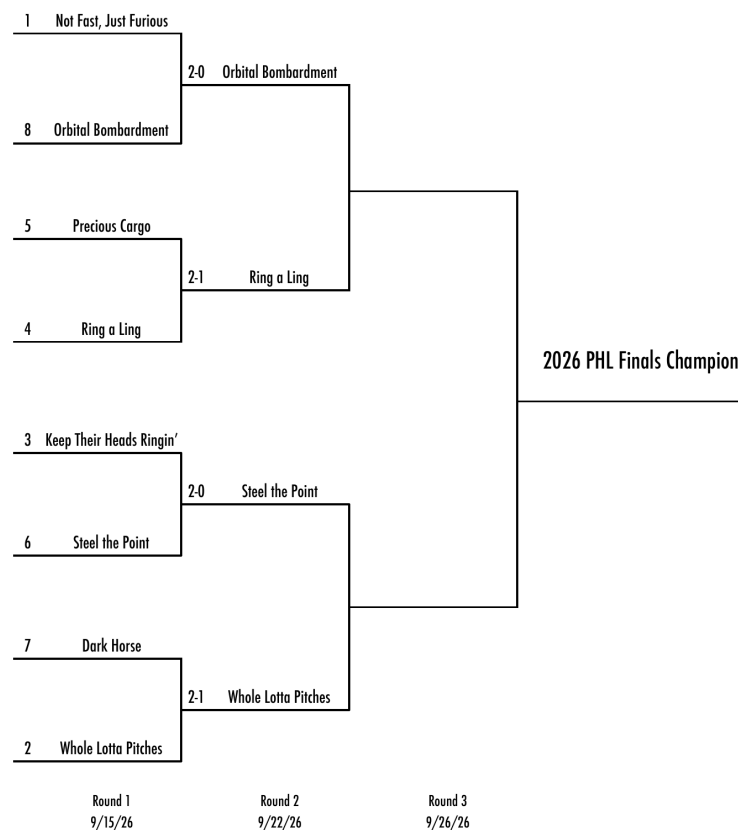
The B-player matchup could be decisive. Larry surged from 7.47 PPG in the regular season to 12.50 in Round 1, while Jake rose from 7.63 to 11.00. That leaves both teams entering the semifinal with their B players coming off some of their strongest scoring of the season. The A matchup brings championship history, but Round 1 suggests the series may turn on which supporting player can sustain the jump.

THE ROAD TO THE 2026 PHL FINALS

Round 2: September 22 | Finals: September 26

Updated Playoff Bracket

2026 Pegasus Horseshoe League Playoff Bracket



Round 2 Storylines to Watch

THE CINDERELLA	THE FORMER PARTNERS	THE MILESTONE CHASE
Orbital went from 9-45 to the semifinal after sweeping the league's 37-17 top seed. Another win would turn an extraordinary single-round upset into a full Cinderella run.	Sean Gomes vs Matt Lynch revisits the 2025 Lynch Mob partnership. Casey Santos vs Tom Wolfe revisits the 2019 championship-winning Beast Mode pairing.	Casey begins Round 2 at 1,023 officially recorded playoff points and 303 singles. Sean begins at 685 points after moving into third place on the recorded career list.

ROUND 2 HAS A DIFFERENT LOOK THAN ANYONE EXPECTED. The No. 1 and No. 3 seeds are already gone, two lower seeds arrive off sweeps, and every remaining team carries a distinct historical storyline. By the end of September 22, the PHL will know whether Orbital's upset became a true Cinderella run, whether Sean Gomes reached his second Finals, and which side of the Casey Santos-Tom Wolfe reunion earned the other championship berth.

Historical playoff counting statistics in this document refer to officially recorded totals. Some early-era playoff records are incomplete for players whose careers began before full postseason tracking.