

**Dead or alive?  
Can the Red Sox  
come back in the  
ALCS?**

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Breaking news, our Play of the Week audio slide show and Shalisse Manza Young's PatsTalk, at [projosports.com/patsblog](http://projosports.com/patsblog)

**Been there before**

The Red Sox are one of only three teams to win a best-of-seven ALCS series after losing two of the first three:

YEAR	WINNER	LOSER
1985	Royals	Blue Jays
1986	Red Sox	Angels
1995	Indians	Mariners

For up-to-the-second stats and scores:  
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SECTION C  
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**American League  
Championship Series**

# OUTWARD BOUND

## Indians 7-3

The Indians erupted for seven runs in the fifth inning, with five of them scoring after two were out, and pushed the Red Sox to the brink of elimination in the ALCS.

**GROUNDHOG DAY**

For the third straight game, the Red Sox' starting pitcher was knocked out after 4<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings.

**MANNY BEING GAGNE**

**Manny Delcarmen** came on in relief of **Tim Wakefield** with the score 3-0 and promptly surrendered a three-run homer to **Jhonny Peralta** and an RBI single to **Casey Blake**, turning it into a 7-0 game.

**GAME OF INCHES**

A hot shot up the middle by **Asdrubal Cabrera** was headed straight to second baseman **Dustin Pedroia**, who was poised to turn it into an inning-ending double play to end the fifth with Cleveland ahead by only 1-0. But Wakefield tried to snare it, and all he did was deflect it out of everyone's reach. It went for a run-scoring single — and then the roof fell in on Wakefield, Delcarmen and the Red Sox.

**RELIVING THE DREAM**

When **Kevin Youkilis**, **David Ortiz** and **Manny Ramirez** hit consecutive home runs in the sixth inning, it was the first time the Sox had done that in the postseason since **Reggie Smith**, **Rico Petrocelli** and **Carl Yastrzemski** did it in Game Six of the 1967 World Series.

**ON A ROLL**

Starting in the top of the 11th inning of Game Two and running through the end of the fifth inning of Game Four, the Indians outscored the Sox, 18-2.

**THE BRIGHT SPOT**

**Jon Lester** pitched three scoreless innings in relief.

**NOW ON PROJOSPORTS.COM**

A comprehensive postgame report from **Sean McAdam** and **Joe McDonald**, with more than 25 stories filed from Cleveland yesterday and last night.

**SOON ON PROJOSPORTS.COM**

McAdam's daily audio report, at [projosports.com/redsox](http://projosports.com/redsox)

**TODAY ON PROJOSPORTS.COM**

■ News updates from the off-day workout at Jacobs Field, at [projosports.com/soxblog](http://projosports.com/soxblog)

**ALCS AT A GLANCE**

Game 1	Red Sox 10, Indians 3
Game 2	Indians 13, Red Sox 6 (11)
Game 3	Indians 4, Red Sox 2
Game 4	Indians 7, Red Sox 3
GAME	SITE DAY TIME
Game 5	Cleveland Tomorrow 8:21 Josh Beckett vs. C.C. Sabathia
Game 6*	Boston Saturday TBA Curt Schilling vs. Fausto Carmona
Game 7*	Boston Sunday TBA D. Matsuzaka vs. Jake Westbrook

\* if necessary  
All games telecast on Fox Over-the-air Channel 64  
Cox Channel 11  
Cox HD Channel 704



**Kevin Youkilis screams in frustration** after flying out to lead off the eighth inning.



**Coco Crisp grimaces** after lining out to first base to end Game Four of the ALCS.



**David Ortiz trudges back to the dugout** after making the second out of the eighth inning last night.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

**Dustin Pedroia hands his gear to first-base coach Luis Alicea** after lining out to end the seventh inning last night.

## Slumping Sox facing elimination

BY JOE McDONALD  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

CLEVELAND — At the tail end of the regular season, and during the first round of the playoffs, the Red Sox were clearly locked in offensively. The bats were electrified, charged up and producing.

What happened?  
Ever since Boston's three-run fifth inning, which included back-to-back homers by Manny Ramirez and Mike Lowell, in Game Two of the ALCS at Fenway, the Red Sox' explosive offense has become a dud.

In Game Three, a 4-2 loss to Cleveland, Boston produced only two runs on seven hits, and it wasn't much better in Game Four early last night. Consecutive home runs by Kevin Youkilis, David Ortiz and Ramirez in the sixth inning — after they'd fallen behind, 7-0 — accounted for all the Red Sox' offense as

they dropped a 7-3 decision that put them behind, 3 games to 1, in the best-of-seven series.

"The scene switched in a blink," said second baseman Dustin Pedroia, who's now 5-for-29 in the postseason. "Everything is kind of slipping away, but we're still playing. If we don't win, we go home. We've got to get to the ballpark and get a win."

"We've got our work cut out for us, but I don't think we have to look at it like we have to win three in a row," said Mike Lowell. "We just have to win tomorrow. Take it as one game, and let's just do the things we've done all year."

Game Five will be played tomorrow night, and the Indians' Paul Byrd — who shut out the Sox for five innings before losing his touch during Cleveland's 30-plus-minute seven-run rally in the bottom of the fifth — says his team isn't celebrating yet.

"That's a great team over there," Byrd said. "They can easily come back and win three. We're taking absolutely nothing for granted. We'll enjoy the win for now, but we want to put them away at home in front of these great fans."

The Indians' starters have made some adjustments, and their bullpen has been tremendous. Since scoring three runs in the fifth inning of Game Two on Saturday night, the Red Sox are batting .212 as a team.

In the ALDS against the Angels and in the first two games of this series Ramirez and Ortiz were producing in record numbers. They reached base in 37 of 54 plate appearances, and — for a while — the hitters around them were producing enough to result in a pretty potent lineup.

But that has fizzled.

SEE RED SOX, C5

## It seems the Sox are saving their worst for last

CLEVELAND — Part of baseball's beauty is that sometimes the numbers don't add up.

How was it, for example, that the Arizona Diamondbacks compiled the best record in the National League but gave up more runs than they scored? Or how was it possible that in 1984, Jim Rice managed to knock in 122 runs, despite grounding into a league-leading 36 double plays?



Some baseball facts simply defy logic.

Rest assured, however, that the Red Sox sitting on the edge of playoff elimination does not qualify as one of those instances. There's nothing the least bit mysterious or aberrational about their impending doom.

It's the starting pitching, stupid. Or, more accurately, the lack thereof.

All season, the Red Sox thrived on superb starting pitching. The team boasted three starters with 15 or more wins and their ace, Josh Beckett, is the odds-on-favorite to capture the American League Cy Young Award.

SEE McADAM, C5



**STARTING TO FAIL**

The Red Sox' starting pitching, so strong all season long, has been — with the exception of Josh Beckett's start in Game One — the team's weak link so far in the ALCS:

NAME	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Curt Schilling	4.2	9	5	5	0	3
Daisuke Matsuzaka	4.2	6	4	4	2	6
Tim Wakefield	4.2	5	5	5	2	7

**Sox starter Tim Wakefield, throwing to first base on a pickoff attempt in the third inning last night, caused most of his own problems last night by deflecting a potential inning-ending double-play ball in the fateful fifth.**

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