

**Bryant's big move:
Bulldogs headed
to Division I**

Read the story
on Page C3



LINCOLN BOOTERS EDGE ST. RAPHAEL: View the gallery at HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland

The full Sox report

Late game reports, postgame reaction, a slideshow and Sean McAdam's audio report at projosports.com/redsox

Aces in October

Josh Beckett's postseason statistics after last night's domination of the Indians in Game Five:

	W	L	ERA
Division Series	1	1	0.64
Champ. Series	3	0	2.70
World Series	1	1	1.10
TOTALS	5	2	1.78

For up-to-the-second stats and scores: projosports.com/redsox

SECTION C



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projo SPORTS

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American League
Championship Series

**SOX
7-1**

Josh Beckett was masterful once again and the Red Sox, after squandering numerous opportunities early, finally pulled away and sent the ALCS back to Boston for Game Six tomorrow night.

OPPORTUNITY WASTED . . .

In the early innings last night, the Red Sox . . .

- Had a runner (**Manny Ramirez**) thrown out at the plate for the third out of the first inning.
- Got no runs out of a first-and-second, no-out situation in the fourth when **Coco Crisp**, after failing to bunt the runners over, struck out and **Julio Lugo** grounded into a double play.
- Lost out on two runs when a potential double into the left-field corner by **Mike Lowell** in the fifth inning curved foul by inches.
- Eventually left the bases loaded in that inning when **Bobby Kielty** flied out to end the threat.

. . . ISN'T OPPORTUNITY LOST

Not with Beckett on the mound. After a bloop double by **Grady Sizemore** in the first led to a run, the Sox right-hander clamped down on the Indians. He allowed five hits and one run over eight innings, with a personal postseason-record 11 strikeouts.

BREAKING THROUGH

The Sox, who nursed a tenuous 2-1 lead into the seventh, finally gave Beckett some breathing room. **Dustin Pedroia** doubled and **Kevin Youkilis**, who had given the Sox a 1-0 lead with a first-inning home run, hit a drive up the gap in right-center that ticked off the diving Sizemore's glove for a triple. **David Ortiz** followed with a sacrifice fly to left that made it 4-1. The Sox added three more runs in the eighth.

NOW ON PROJOSPORTS.COM

A comprehensive postgame report from **Sean McAdam** and **Joe McDonald**, including:

- An updated Beckett column by McAdam
 - McDonald on Youkilis and Pedroia jump-starting the offense
 - McDonald talking to **Terry Francona** about the home-run controversy with Ramirez in the third inning
 - McAdam talking to Beckett about his confrontation with **Kenny Lofton**
 - McAdam talking to Ramirez
 - General clubhouse reaction from McDonald
- Go to projosports.com/redsox

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 5	Red Sox 7, Indians 1		
GAME	SITE	DAY	TIME
Game 6	Boston	Tomorrow	8:23
	Curt Schilling vs. Fausto Carmona		
Game 7*	Boston	Sunday	8:23
	D. Matsuzaka vs. Jake Westbrook		

* if necessary

All games telecast on Fox Over-the-air Channel 64 Cox Channel 11 Cox HD Channel 704

Once again, Beckett is Mr. Big

CLEVELAND — Any chance that Josh Beckett can pitch Sunday on two days' rest?

There are miles — and another victory — to go before Game Seven becomes a reality, but thanks to Beckett, it's still a possibility.

SEAN McADAM



The American League Championship Series between the Red Sox and Cleveland Indians has been full of surprises but here's the one sure thing we've learned through five ALCS games: When Beckett starts, the Red Sox win; when he doesn't, they don't.

Had the Sox lost last night, it wouldn't have been the end of the world, as Manny Ramirez reminded us Wednesday, but would have been the end of the Red Sox' season. Beckett made sure that it kept going.

Maybe that shouldn't have been a surprise. He's been their best, most consistent pitcher all season and even before he took the mound at Jacobs Field last night, he had allowed two runs in 15 innings in two postseason starts.

During the regular season, Beckett was the starter most adept at ensuring that losing streaks didn't get out of hand. In games after Red Sox losses, Beckett was 10-3.

Of course, during the season, another loss was just that. Last night, another loss would have meant the end of the Red Sox road.

But Beckett wouldn't allow that. He was nicked for a run in the first inning when Grady Sizemore hit a drop-shot double down the left-field line and Asdrubal Cabrera singled him home.

After that, Beckett gave the Indians virtually nothing. Victor Martinez drilled a two-out single in the first and the Indians didn't collect another hit until the fifth when Casey Blake singled up the middle.

When Julio Lugo ranged too far astray on an infield grounder to the right side, screening double-play partner Dustin Pedroia, Sizemore reached first and Blake scampered to third.

With the tying run on third and the go-ahead run at first, Beckett never blinked, overpowering Cabrera with a punchout.

There were no signs of physical issues, just six days after he felt his shoulder stiffen on him after just six innings and 80 pitches in Game One. Whether he could have — or should have — pitched Game Four the other night is now a moot point. Critically, he was ready when the Sox needed him last night.

Along the way, Beckett's competitive streak flared. When

SEE **McADAM, C4**



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

Josh Beckett leaves the mound at the end of the eighth inning, his night complete and the victory assured.



Kevin Youkilis, who had homered earlier in the game, drives the ball deep to right-center field in the seventh inning . . .



. . . driving in Dustin Pedroia with Boston's third run. It started a late-game explosion that sealed the deal for the Sox.

Sox win, force Game Six

BY JOE McDONALD
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

CLEVELAND — Josh Beckett is normally the type of pitcher the Red Sox don't need to score a lot of runs for.

So when they got him seven last night, there was no question this series was headed back to Boston.

The previously somnolent Red Sox offense erupted for 13 hits, led by Kevin Youkilis' triple and home run and two RBI, and Beckett took care of the rest, scattering five hits and striking out 11 as the Sox defeated the Indians, 7-1, in Game Five of the American League Championship Series.

"Josh threw the ball well for us," said Youkilis. "He was just mowing. He was throwing the ball like he usually does."

"We've leaned on [Beckett] all year," said manager Terry Francona. "He was up in the first inning, but once he settled down and got his breaking ball, he became the dominant pitcher we've known all year."

The Sox — attempting to become the 11th team in history, and the third Red Sox team in history, to come back from a 3-1 deficit in a best-of-seven series — had the proper attitude heading into to last night's do-or-die showdown.

"We weren't trying to win three games in one night," said Youkilis. "We just did what we had to do to win this ballgame, and we did a great job."

Prior to last night, the Sox' biggest problem had been the lack of timely hitting. And it continued at the beginning of last night's game.

Youkilis, who hit his third homer of this series last night, gave the stagnant offense a huge boost in the top of the first inning. After Dustin Pedroia had led off the game with a groundout to shortstop, Youkilis crushed a 1-and-0 offering from C.C. Sabathia, depositing it over the left-field wall, 373 feet from home plate, to give Boston an early 1-0 lead.

"Getting ahead was a huge factor for us," said Youkilis. "Getting the confidence, getting that first run is huge. With Josh Beckett on the mound, that one run might be all we need."

David Ortiz followed with a strikeout before Ramirez doubled to left-center. The Red Sox' threat came to a halt, however, when Ramirez was thrown out at home attempting to score on a Mike Lowell single to right.

The three-hit success Boston enjoyed off Sabathia in the first was matched by Cleveland in the bottom of the inning.

Beckett, who pitched a com-

SEE **RED SOX, C4**