

Which team was better: the 2004 Red Sox or the 2007 champs?

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NORTH KINGSTOWN, TIVERTON ADVANCE : View the gallery at [HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland](http://HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland)

**Projo PatsTalk**

Shalise Manza Young discusses the coming showdown in her audio report posted by noon at [projosports.com/patriots](http://projosports.com/patriots)

**On a roll**

The Pats' current 11-game regular-season winning streak is the second-longest in franchise history:

STREAK	FIRST WIN	FINAL WIN
18	Oct. 5, 2003	Oct. 24, 2004
11	Dec. 17, 2006	---
9	Nov. 25, 2001	Sept. 22, 2002
8	Nov. 3, 1994	Sept. 3, 1995



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# projo SPORTS

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## SOX IN THE CITY



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BILL MURPHY

Sox closer Jonathan Papelbon (left) yells to the crowd while fellow pitcher Mike Timlin plays air guitar at the rolling rally.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GRETCHEN ERTL

Alissa Bishop, of Dracut, Mass., has plenty of makeup on as she waits for the rolling rally along Tremont Street yesterday.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BILL MURPHY

Red Sox pitcher Jon Lester, who won Game Four of the World Series, waves to the crowd yesterday.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GRETCHEN ERTL

The broom was a fixture in the jam-packed crowd along Tremont Street at yesterday's rally in downtown Boston.

## GOOD VS. EVIL

### Pats seen as the bad guys in showdown with Colts

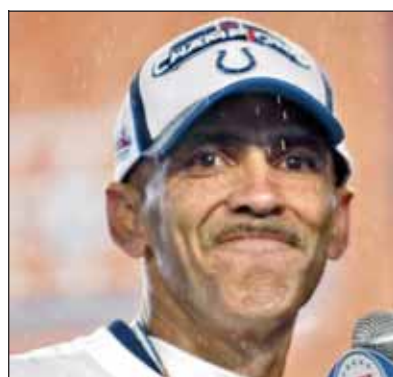
BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

The Biggest Game in the History of the NFL (This Week) has a lot of intriguing storylines — the two best quarterbacks of this generation, two of the best defensive minds the league has seen, fantastic offenses on both sides.

But over the last few months and weeks, the New England Patriots have morphed into football's version of the Evil Empire, with Bill Belichick as the expressionless Darth Vader.

And, of course, where there is evil, there must be good. And who better for that role than the Indianapolis Colts? They wear white, the color of purity, for crying out loud.

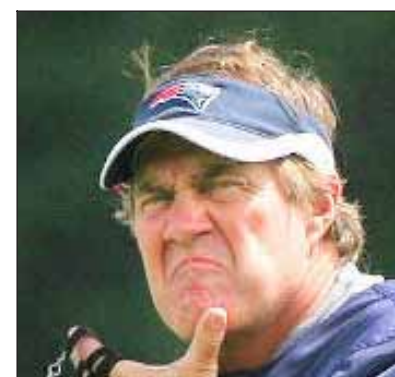
The football-viewing public feels as if they know Peyton Manning be-



MCT / AL DIAZ

Tony Dungy's values embraced.

cause he's smiling at them from every other Sunday afternoon commercial — heck, even his kid brother



JOURNAL PHOTO / BOB BREIDENBACH

Bill Belichick takes no prisoners?

and father are in on the act. Coach Tony Dungy is seen as a kind, God-fearing man, the type of values em-

braced by most Americans.

Like anything, however, it's not so cut and dried.

Sure, it makes for a sexy subplot, the small-city Midwestern team against the big bullies from the East Coast, but is that really what this game is? Does there have to be a "bad guy?"

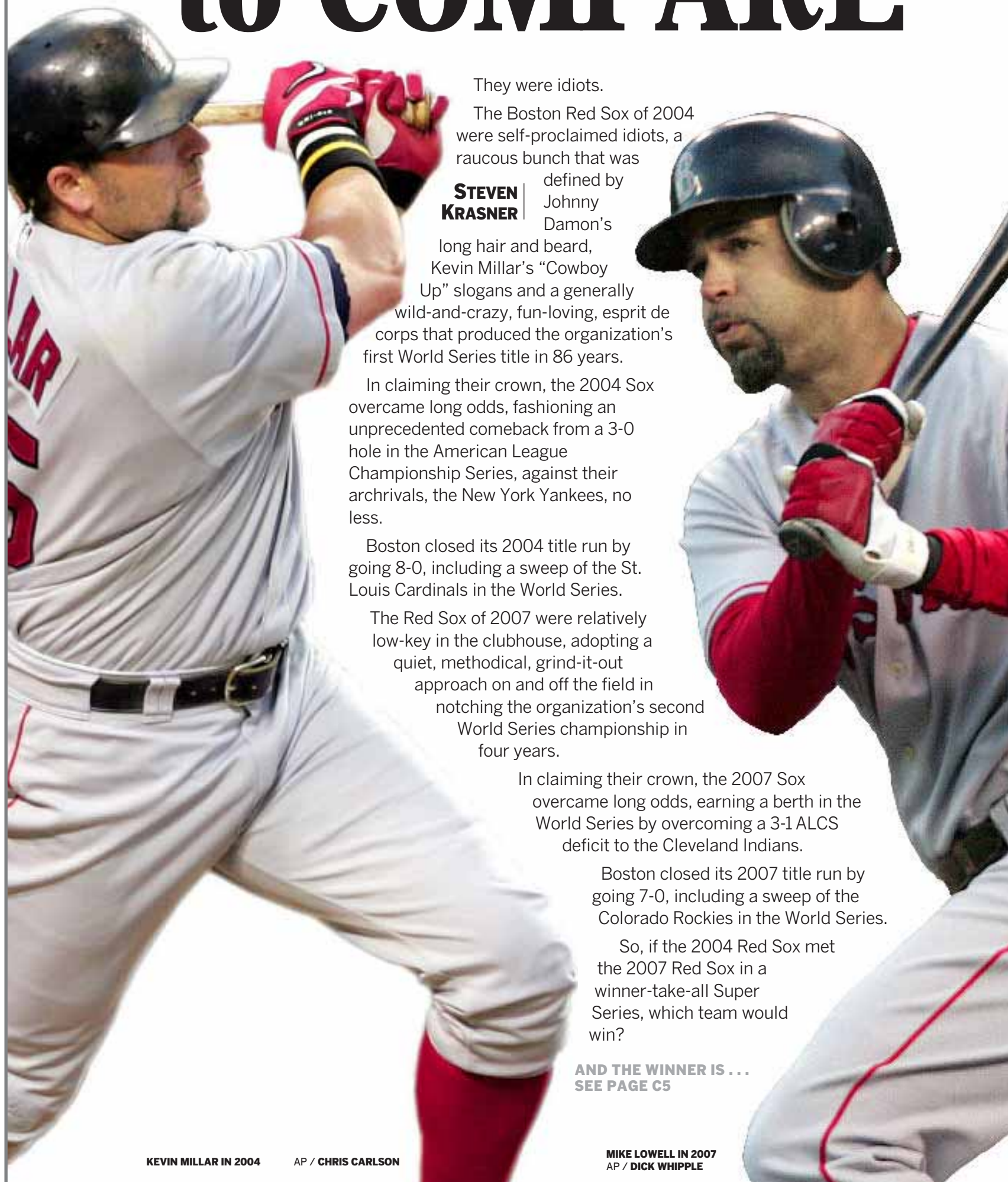
We'll grant you that the Patriots' recent past wouldn't put them in line for an Eagle Scout badge. From the Spygate controversy to Rodney Harrison's suspension for HGH use to the current (and unwarranted) flap over their running up the score, many of the headlines have been less than favorable.

But many of the positives don't get

SEE PATRIOTS, C2

# DARE to COMPARE

Which team really rules, the 2004 or 2007 Red Sox?



They were idiots.

The Boston Red Sox of 2004 were self-proclaimed idiots, a raucous bunch that was

**STEVEN KRASNER** defined by Johnny Damon's

long hair and beard, Kevin Millar's "Cowboy Up" slogans and a generally wild-and-crazy, fun-loving, esprit de corps that produced the organization's first World Series title in 86 years.

In claiming their crown, the 2004 Sox overcame long odds, fashioning an unprecedented comeback from a 3-0 hole in the American League Championship Series, against their archrivals, the New York Yankees, no less.

Boston closed its 2004 title run by going 8-0, including a sweep of the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series.

The Red Sox of 2007 were relatively low-key in the clubhouse, adopting a quiet, methodical, grind-it-out approach on and off the field in notching the organization's second World Series championship in four years.

In claiming their crown, the 2007 Sox overcame long odds, earning a berth in the World Series by overcoming a 3-1 ALCS deficit to the Cleveland Indians.

Boston closed its 2007 title run by going 7-0, including a sweep of the Colorado Rockies in the World Series.

So, if the 2004 Red Sox met the 2007 Red Sox in a winner-take-all Super Series, which team would win?

AND THE WINNER IS... SEE PAGE C5

KEVIN MILLAR IN 2004 AP / CHRIS CARLSON

MIKE LOWELL IN 2007 AP / DICK WHIPPLE