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Losers sometimes win

On only four occasions in MLB history has a team trailed 2-0 in the best-of-five divisional playoff series gone on to win the series:

YEAR	WON	LOST
2003	Red Sox	Athletics
2001	Athletics	Yankees
1999	Red Sox	Indians
1995	Mariners	Yankees

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

SECTION D



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projo SPORTS

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American League Division Series

SOX 3-2

LAST NIGHT

A comprehensive postgame package is available on projosports.com/redsox, with stories from Kevin McNamara and Bill Reynolds and photos and video from Bob Breidenbach and Mary Murphy.

TODAY

Go to projosports.com/soxblog throughout the day for the latest news, commentary and notes.

ALDS

GM SCORE

- 1 Red Sox 4, Angels 1
- 2 Red Sox 7, Angels 5
- 3 Angels 5, Red Sox 4 (12)
- 4 Red Sox 3, Angels 2

ALCS: SOX VS. RAYS

DAY	SITE	TIME
Friday	at Tampa Bay	8:37 p.m.
Saturday	at Tampa Bay	8:07 p.m.
Monday	at Boston	4:37 p.m.
Tuesday	at Boston	8:07 p.m.
*Oct. 16	at Boston	8:07 p.m.
*Oct. 18	at Tampa Bay	4:37 p.m.
*Oct. 19	at Tampa Bay	8:07 p.m.

* -- if necessary

Game times to be announced

All ALCS games televised on TBS

INSIDE

■ Mike Lowell's season may be over, as the Red Sox succumb to the obvious and remove him from the ALDS roster because of his ailing hip. Taking him off the active roster in the middle of the ALDS means he's now ineligible for the next series, as well. And though he'd be allowed to return if the Sox make the World Series, there's no indication he'd be healthy enough to do so. **Page B5**

■ A recap of the Angels' 12-inning victory Sunday night. **Page B4**

■ He didn't pitch well Sunday, but the Red Sox say Josh Beckett is healthy. **Page B4**

ELSEWHERE

■ The Rays advance to the American League Championship Series as they defeat the White Sox. **Page B4**

■ Manny Ramirez said he "partied like a rock star" after the Dodgers eliminated the Cubs and advanced to the NLCS. **Page B3**

JOB ONE IS DONE

Lowrie's walk-off single clinches ALDS for the Red Sox

BY KEVIN McNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — After careening from disaster to euphoria in a span of only minutes, the Boston Red Sox are saying goodbye to a powerhouse and hello to baseball's underdogs.

The Red Sox rode a superb start from lefty John Lester before watching their bullpen cave in and not only give away a two-run lead but allow the Los Angeles Angels to push the go-ahead run to third base in the ninth inning. That's when

some terribly fortuitous luck turned in Boston's favor and added up to an improbable 3-2, walk-off victory that gave the Sox a 3-1 win in the American League Division Series.

Game One of the ALCS against the surprising Tampa Bay Rays is Friday night in Florida.

The Red Sox were only a play or two from blowing this game. Their first step back from the grave took place in the top of the ninth inning. With Reggie Willits on third base and one out, reliever Manny

Delcarmen was met on the mound by catcher Jason Varitek.

"Tek told me to watch for the bunt. They bunted on me before in L.A.," Delcarmen said. "I wasn't sure but I was ready."

Sure enough, on a 2-1 pitch to Erick Aybar, the Angels chose to send Willits on a suicide squeeze. Aybar missed the bunt attempt and Varitek instantly ran at Willits all the way up the third base line. Varitek leaped at Willits, slapped a tag on him and after he hit the ground the ball squirt-

ed loose. However, umpire Tim Welke ruled the ball came loose only after Varitek hit the turf.

"I've never saw Tek run so fast to track (Willits) down," Delcarmen said.

The stunning Angel miscue set up step number two. With one out in the bottom of the ninth, Jason Bay (who hit .412 in the series) hit a ground rule double into the right field seats. After the second out, rookie Jed Lowrie slapped a single between

SEE RED SOX, D5



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

Red Sox left fielder Jason Bay scores the winning run in the ninth inning on a single by Jed Lowrie to beat the Angels and advance to the ALCS against the Rays.

Questions no more; it was another great night at Fenway

BILL REYNOLDS



play, and if he could, how effective was he going to be?

And maybe the biggest question of all:

BOSTON — A week ago, the questions hung in the air like gathering storm clouds.

Was Josh Beckett going to be able to pitch in this series?

Was J.D. Drew going to be able to play at all?

Was Mike Lowell going to be able to

could the Red Sox survive the Angels having the home-field advantage?

A week ago, this all seemed different. Not now.

Now the Red Sox are, once again, going to the American League Championship Series, and the Angels are going back home to Disneyland, over and out. Now the Red Sox have dispatched the Angels, the team that had won 100 games and was supposed to be the class of the American League. Now the Red Sox are heading for a date with the upstart Rays in Tampa Bay, cast off

by another great night in Fenway Park, this old ballyard that's seen so many of them through the decades, this place that's become baseball's version of hallowed ground, a place where good things now seem to happen to the Red Sox.

What a difference a week makes.

Sunday night, they had lost in 12 innings, a game that gave the Angels another life, letting them think that if they could grab last night's game they could go back to California with the series tied, and having regained their home-field

advantage. Sunday night, the Red Sox gave the Angels a chance to dream.

Last night, they took that dream away, once again sending the Angels home for the season.

Not that it was easy.

Never that.

It took a bizarre failed Angels suicide squeeze in the ninth, when they had a runner on third and only one out, and it appeared the game was about to change, that the Angels were going to live for

SEE REYNOLDS, D5

Patriots thanking their offense for making their defense look good

By maintaining control of the ball for long periods against the 49ers, New England gave its defense time to regroup.

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Usually, the best offense is a great defense. But sometimes, it works a little bit differently than that.

In the moments after his team's 30-21 victory against the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday, Patriots coach Bill Belichick

credited his offense and its clock-munching drives with helping the defense.

Though New England had prepared for San Francisco's dynamic Mike Martz-created offense for more than a week, when the game began the defense was having some problems that led to several big 49ers early plays.

But as the Pats' offense did its work and mounted sustained drives, it gave the defense time to make the necessary adjustments, get on the same page, and start shutting down the Niners, something it didn't do in its previous game

against the Dolphins.

"I think we were playing on our heels," Rodney Harrison said of the defense in the early minutes of Sunday's game. "If you study film, you understand that [with] Mike Martz, you never know what he's going to do. They could come out with a four-wide receiver package, a five-wide receiver package, or a regular, base '21' personnel.

"Initially, we were trying to find our way and dip our feet into the water, testing the water instead of jumping right in. If you play football, you can't test the water. You've got to go out there and jump

right in and play very confidently. Once we settled down, I think we did a pretty good job of making adjustments and communicating."

After giving up two quick touchdowns to the Niners with a short, touchdown-scoring possession by the Patriots in between, the New England offense remained on the field for four and a half minutes at the end of the first quarter, allowing defensive players to huddle with coaches on the sideline and figure out how they could best attack the San Francisco offense.

"There was some extra time to get on

the sidelines and get some adjustments taken care of," Harrison said. "It gave us the ability to calm down, because we were all over the place. With the offense controlling the possession time, it gave us the chance to calm down and get things together."

Communication was paramount on Sunday, particularly as the Patriots unveiled a few new personnel packages. At times, the team went with two or even one defensive lineman, with a lineup heavy on speed including Harrison, Jar-

SEE PATRIOTS, D3