

Should the Pats be disappointed with Laurence Maroney?

Tell us what you think at projosports.com/patriots



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Projo Video

New coach Rob Murray tells you what to expect this season from his Providence Bruins, at projosports.com

The closer the better

Red Sox closer Jonathan Papelbon extended his career postseason scoreless streak to 19.2 innings placing him second among pitchers with the most playoff innings without allowing a run:

PITCHER	INNINGS
Joe Niekro	20.2
Jonathan Papelbon	19.2
Dennis Cook	16.1
Duster Mails	15.2

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SECTION D



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2008

projo SPORTS

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Streaking Rays await resilient Red Sox

Boston will have to rely on more clutch hitting and strong starting pitching against Tampa Bay in the ALCS.

BY KEVIN McNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — As what's become an all-too-familiar clubhouse celebration scene unfolded around him late Monday night, Red Sox pitcher Josh Beckett

COMMENTARY |

wore a rare smile as he clutched a

bottle of Korbel champagne.

Beckett was marveling at his team's grit and resiliency, two traits that stood out not only in a 3-2 win in Game Four of the A.L. Division Series but throughout a 3-1 series victory over the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

"They're a really good baseball team," Beckett said of the Angels. "On (Sunday) we go 12 innings and lose. Tonight's (Monday night's) game was the most critical game of the series and it's 2-2 in the bottom of the ninth. They're really close games. We couldn't be more evenly matched."

In the end, however, the Sox are moving on and the 100-win Angels are going home. Boston has now knocked L.A. out of the playoffs three times in the last six seasons. If the next two rounds of baseball's playoffs are as exciting and well-played as this ALDS was, Red Sox fans had best brew plenty of coffee and reupholster their favorite chairs.

Here are a few items to ponder as the Sox prepare for a trip to Tampa Bay for Games One and Two of the ALCS Friday and Saturday.

■ It's a good thing Mike Scioscia isn't working in New England. With one out and a runner on third base in the ninth inning, the Angels' manager

SEE RED SOX, D2



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

The Sox' Jason Varitek tags out the Angels' Reggie Willits in a rundown between third and home on a failed suicide squeeze in the ninth inning Monday night.

RISKY BUSINESS



Willits is called out by third-base umpire Tim Welke before Varitek crashed to the ground.



The ball pops out of Varitek's glove upon impact as Willits returns to the third-base bag.



Angels manager Mike Scioscia argues that Willits should be safe with umpire Welke, to no avail.

Failed suicide squeeze bursts the Angels' ALDS balloon

BY ART MARTONE
JOURNAL SPORTS EDITOR

"If it works, it's a great play. If it doesn't, it's tough to swallow."

That was Mark Teixeira's take on the busted suicide-squeeze play in the top of the ninth inning Monday night that killed the Angels' chance to take the lead.

The game and the series were lost in the bottom of the same inning, when Jed Lowrie singled home Jason Bay with two outs to give the Red Sox a 3-2 victory.

"Tough to swallow" indeed, because the Angels — who had tied the game with a two-out, two-run rally in the eighth — seemed poised to take command of the series. A victory would have given them two wins at Fenway Park (against Boston's two best pitchers, no less) and a hurricane-force wind of momentum at their backs heading into

a deciding Game Five of the ALDS in Anaheim. And victory seemed there for the taking.

A leadoff pinch-hit double by Kendry Morales had gotten the inning started, and pinch-runner Reggie Willits was sacrificed to third by Howie Kendrick. Up stepped Erick Aybar, who had singled home the winning run in the same situation — runner on third and one out — in the 12th inning Sunday night.

Manny Delcarmen was brought in to face Aybar. His third pitch was a 96-mph fastball.

Willits broke from third. Aybar squared and attempted to bunt.

He missed. Varitek chased Willits back to the bag and tagged him

out just before he reached the base. And just like that, everything changed. The air came out of the Angels' balloon. The seeming inevitability of their winning the game evaporated. Ten minutes later, it was over.

The Angels are perhaps the biggest proponent of "small ball" in the American League, and they defiantly insisted — publicly, anyway — that that was the way to go.

"That's our style," said starting pitcher John Lackey. "It got us here, so we'll keep playing that kind of a game."

When it doesn't work, though, it's tough to defend. And tough to swallow.

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FOR AN AUDIO slide show of the play, go to projosports.com/redsox



American League Championship Series

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

TODAY ON PROJOSPORTS.COM

■ Get reports from the Red Sox workout in Boston from Dan Barbarisi and Paul Kenyon.

■ Joe McDonald and Kevin McNamara are in Tampa and will file updates from Tropicana Field, where the Rays are working out.

Go to projosports.com/redsox

INSIDE

■ Mike Lowell talks about the decision to remove him from the ALDS roster, which makes him ineligible for the ALCS. **Page D2**

■ Theo Epstein thinks it was fitting that the two players involved in producing the game-winning run Monday night — Jed Lowrie and Jason Bay — weren't with the team at the beginning of the season. **Page D2**

■ More baseball. **Page D3**

Lester's dominance evident in more than just statistics

BY BILL REYNOLDS
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — We are seeing the emergence of Jon Lester as a great pitcher.

Monday night was just the latest example.

The stats say that he went seven shutout innings, giving up only four hits. The stats say he threw 109 pitches, had four strikeouts and walked only two.

The stats say he had a great game. The stats say that he did not allow an



LESTER

second great game in this series. The stats don't tell how he silenced the Angels all night long, and that in a fairer baseball world he would have gotten the win.

But the stats tell only part of the story. "I thought Jon Lester was tremendous," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said. "He was strong with his pitches. He was poised.

SEE LESTER, D2

MONDAY NIGHT'S HEROES

Rookie Lowrie came up with veteran-like hit

BY KEVIN McNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — In a game filled with improbable moments, the Red Sox' biggest hero was just that — improbable.

Jed Lowrie began this season playing 53 games in Pawtucket. He was called up by Boston first on April 10 when Mike Lowell was placed on the DL, and again in the season when Julio Lugo went on the DL.

The Stanford graduate capped his



LOWRIE

rookie season in the majors by driving in the run that clinched Boston's A.L. Division Series Monday night at Fenway Park. Lowrie drove a single into right field that opened the door for Jason Bay to score from second base with the winning run.

"It was a curveball down in the zone," Lowrie said. "I know he's got a good one. I was just able to get the barrel on it."

Lowrie ended the regular season hitting .213 in September, but his strong glove cemented his place as the team's

SEE LOWRIE, D2