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GAME THREE GOES RAYS' WAY: View the gallery at [projosports.com/redsox](http://projosports.com/redsox)

Projo Video

Scenes from Fenway Park, as the Red Sox and the Rays continue to battle for the pennant, at [projosports.com/redsox](http://projosports.com/redsox)

Made in Europe

Kobe Bryant may not have been crowned NBA champion last year, but the Lakers' star is King of jersey sales in Europe. Here are the top selling NBA jerseys on that continent:

PLAYER	TEAM
Kobe Bryant	Los Angeles Lakers
Kevin Garnett	Boston Celtics
Pau Gasol	Los Angeles Lakers
Lebron James	Cleveland Cavaliers

[projosports.com/celtics](http://projosports.com/celtics)



SECTION D  
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# projo SPORTS

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American League Championship Series

## Rays 9-1

**TIMES OF TROUBLE**

For the first time in franchise history, the Red Sox have allowed nine runs or more in back-to-back postseason games.

**TIMES OF WOE**

And last night, they scored one run at home in a postseason game for just the 10th time in franchise history.

**AND THE HITS ...**

The four home runs allowed last night were tied for the second-most ever given up by the Red Sox in a postseason game.

**... JUST KEEP ON COMING**

They've now lost three straight at Fenway Park to the Rays, and 9 of the last 12 overall meetings between the teams dating back to the regular season.

**WILL IT EVER END?**

Of the 28 teams to trail 2-1 in a best-of-seven LCS, 20 have lost.

**BUT ...**

The Sox have authored two of those eight comebacks, rallying from a 2-1 ALCS deficit twice. **Page D5**



THE JOURNAL / MARY MURPHY

Tim Wakefield faces Andy Sonnanstine tonight in Game Four.

**SO NOW ...**

The Sox turn to Tim Wakefield (above) tonight to attempt to begin that comeback and tie the series. **Page D4**

**FOLLOW IT HERE**

Game Four reports on [projosports.com/redsox](http://projosports.com/redsox) will begin early and continue throughout the day and night, as Joe McDonald, Daniel Barbarisi, Kevin McNamara, Bill Reynolds and Jim Donaldson report from Fenway Park.

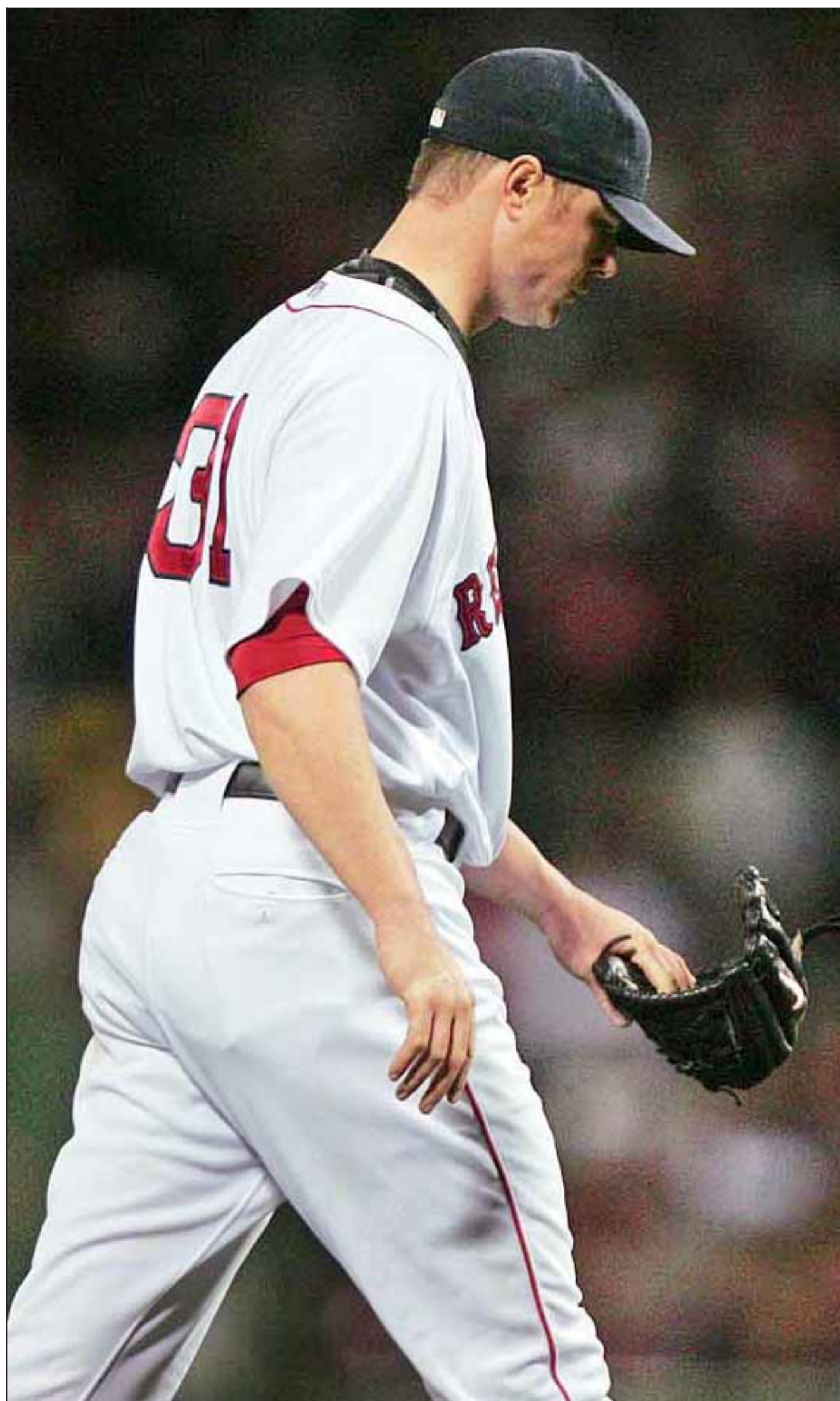
**LOCAL PRIDE**

One last note: Rocco Baldelli (story at right) is only the second major-leaguer who was born and raised in Rhode Island to hit a home run in the postseason. The other is Providence's Davey Lopes, who hit six in his career with the Dodgers. Two other native Rhode Islanders who were raised elsewhere — Paul Konerko (7 homers) and Gabby Hartnett (2) — also went deep in the playoffs.

GAME	RESULT	
One	Red Sox 2, Rays 0	
Two	Rays 9, Red Sox 8 (11 innings)	
Three	Rays 9, Red Sox 1	
DAY	SITE	TIME
Tonight	at Boston	8:07 p.m.
	T. Wakefield vs. A. Sonnanstine	
Thursday	at Boston	8:07 p.m.
	D. Matsuzaka vs. J. Shields	
*Saturday	at Tampa Bay	4:37 p.m.**
	Josh Beckett vs. Scott Kazmir	
*Sunday	at Tampa Bay	8:07 p.m.
	Jon Lester vs. Matt Garza	

\* -- if necessary / \*\* -- 8:07 if NLCS is over  
All ALCS games televised on TBS

# ACE IS TRUMPED



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON

Red Sox starter Jon Lester heads for the dugout after being knocked out of yesterday's game against the Rays in the sixth inning. Lester gave up eight hits and five runs in Boston's 9-1 drugging at the hands of Tampa Bay.

## Rays give Lester, Sox a thrashing

BY JOE McDONALD  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — This wasn't supposed to happen to the Red Sox.

Not with Jon Lester on the mound, especially at Fenway Park. Boston's left-hander has become the ace of the staff in 2008, and the club was looking for him to dominate the Rays in Game Three of the American League Championship Series, as he did to the rest of the league during the regular season.

But that wasn't the case last night. The Rays pounded Lester for five runs (four earned) and eight hits, including two home runs, in 5½ innings as Tampa Bay coasted to a 9-1 victory. The A.L. East regular-season winners now have a 2-1 series lead.

"I did (last night) what I said on (Sunday), that you have to stay away from," said Lester. "They had a big inning (a four-run third that included a three-run homer by B.J. Upton and a solo homer to Evan Longoria), and that broke our back a little bit. You had to tip your hat to them because they did a good piece of hitting. B.J. turned on one that was over the plate, and I hung a cutter to Longoria. When you

SEE RED SOX, D5

## Siren sounds as Rays raid Fenway Park

BOSTON — Is the sky falling? Last night it certainly felt that way.

The night the Sox looked very vulnerable, getting shellacked in a game most of the baseball world thought they would win, Jon Lester with the ball in Fenway Park. About as much a sure thing as you can find in

playoff baseball, right? So much for sure things. Sunday night it had been Josh Beckett who had self-destructed at Tropicana Field in Tampa. Last night it was Lester, who had turned Fenway Park into his own little field of dreams this season. The same Jon Lester who had been so dominant in this postseason, the same Jon Lester who has been called one of the best young pitchers in baseball. The same Jon Lester who gave up two home runs in the third inning,

SEE REYNOLDS, D5

**BILL REYNOLDS**



## Baldelli's return to health comes full circle at Fenway

Cumberland's Rocco Baldelli's three-run home run culminates his return from illness to be a key player for the Rays.

BY KEVIN McNAMARA  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — As his son circled the bases in a moment that would make any father cry with pride, Dan Baldelli had only one worry.

"I just wanted him to make it around the bases," Baldelli said of his son, Rocco of the Tampa Bay Rays. "Just hit all four of them. I'm never

sure he's OK to get there." Baldelli's fatherly concerns are warranted. While Rocco Baldelli looked the part of a baseball star when he ripped a fastball from the Paul Byrd into the Sports Authority sign high over the wall in left field in the eighth inning of a playoff game against the Red Sox, his father saw other things. Like the moments when his son slowly jogged out to his position in right field. Or when he slipped a bit coming in on a fly ball.

"We both remember the tough

SEE BALDELLI, D4



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON

Rocco Baldelli, the ex-Hendricken High star who suffers from metabolic mitochondrial disorder, celebrates with fans after last night's game.