

Have you forgiven Bill Buckner for his 1986 World Series error?

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Cowboys up

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1. Dallas Cowboys 10.1%
2. Pittsburgh Steelers 8.1%
3. Green Bay Packers 7.0%
4. New York Yankees 6.4%
5. Boston Red Sox 5.1%

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RING IN THE YEAR!



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

The Boston Red Sox walk off the field at Fenway Park after receiving their 2007 world championship rings and watching the 2007 championship banner raised during Opening Day festivities.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / MARY MURPHY

Former Red Sox first baseman Bill Buckner, who received a thunderous ovation from the Fenway crowd, reacts after throwing out the first pitch before yesterday's game.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / MARY MURPHY

Beth Polutchko, of Mansfield, Mass., and her daughter Emily, left, welcome the Red Sox back to Fenway Park for yesterday's game against the Detroit Tigers.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

Red Sox legend and special instructor Johnny Pesky salutes the fans before helping to hoist the 2007 world champions banner.

After much hullabaloo, Sox are ready to get down to business

BOSTON — They got their rings, they got their standing ovations, and in the end, they got a win.

SEAN MCADAM
And still, the Red Sox couldn't wait for the day to end. Ordinarily, Opening Day — especially one in which you're being recognized as the previous season's champions — is an experience to savor. But the Red Sox have had more than their share of ceremonies, pag-

entry and special events lately. In the last three weeks, they have traveled some 16,000 miles — from Florida to Japan to Los Angeles to Oakland to Toronto and, finally, home. This wasn't a travelogue; this was a movie title — *From Here to Eternity*. It had gotten old, frankly. Somewhere between Los Angeles and Oakland, maybe, it stopped being a road trip and became a circus. Publicly and privately, most uniformed members of

the organization had the same thought: Enough, already. Yesterday was the last act, the final command performance. At last, they were home, welcomed back by a fanbase that has begun to expect winning rather than one conditioned to fear losing. The pregame ceremony lacked the emotional wallop that came with the 2005 celebration, because nothing will ever top seeing the 2004 banner run up the flagpole.

Once the field was cleared of Bruins and Celtics and Patriots, and the Boston Pops, the Red Sox were presented with one final gift: The Detroit Tigers. If the Sox were reeling a bit from being swept in Toronto, then the Tigers staggered through the entrance to Fenway, beaten and battered by an 0-6 start. The Tigers gift-wrapped Boston's 5-0 victory with two errors and six walks and a rather anemic attack in place of a lineup that has been forecast to score

1,000 runs. In the refurbished home clubhouse, you could almost see the Red Sox discard the last two weeks. They left the whole experience — long flights, foreign lands, football facilities, and endless pregame introductions — right there on the floor for some clubhouse attendant to pick up. "I feel like it's the beginning of the

SEE MCADAM, C7



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

The Red Sox' Manny Ramirez slides safely into third as Tiger third baseman Miguel Cabrera fails to come up with an errant throw during the third inning yesterday. Ramirez scored on the play.

RED SOX 5, TIGERS 0

Despite the Opening Day hoopla, Sox played a keep-it-simple game

BY JOE McDONALD
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — The Red Sox have won two World Series in the last four seasons because of solid pitching, an explosive offense and a unique chemistry within the clubhouse. Unveiling their 2007 World Series championship banner from the top of the Green Monster during Opening Day ceremonies yesterday, the Sox showed their most recent reward for that combination.

But the Red Sox may also lead the majors in another category: clichés. Play them one at a time. Don't make excuses. Don't get too high, don't get too low. They're words to cringe by if you're listening to

them, but words to live by for the Sox. So when they take the field on a day — like yesterday — when they'd lost three in a row, the Sox had a mantra to follow. Backed by a solid pitching performance by Daisuke Matsuzaka, the Red Sox dispatched the still winless Detroit Tigers, 5-0, yesterday. The right-hander earned his second victory of the season, working 6½ scoreless innings and allowing only four hits with seven strikeouts. What's more impressive is that this was a game that could have gone either way for the Red Sox. The struggling Tigers are too talented to not just

SEE RED SOX, C6