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**Fab Fours**

MLB doesn't schedule as many four-games series as it has in the past, yet the Red Sox have managed to sweep one four-game set in each of the last four years:

| TEAM       | YEAR | DATES           |
|------------|------|-----------------|
| Rangers    | 2008 | April 18-21     |
| White Sox  | 2007 | Aug. 24-26      |
| Devil Rays | 2006 | May 25-28       |
| Devil Rays | 2005 | Aug. 29-Sept. 1 |

For up-to-the-second stats and scores: [projosports.com/redsox](http://projosports.com/redsox)

SECTION C



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**projo**SPORTS

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RED SOX 8, RANGERS 3

**Season looking like big winner**

Players' positive attitudes and the team's ability to win in a variety of ways could give Boston, now 14-7, more than 100 victories this season.

BY JOE McDONALD  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — The blueprint is now in place for the Red Sox after only 21 games of the 2008 season.

**NEXT GAME** It looks something like this: Tonight vs. Angels 7:05 Battle for supremacy with the good teams in the league, while

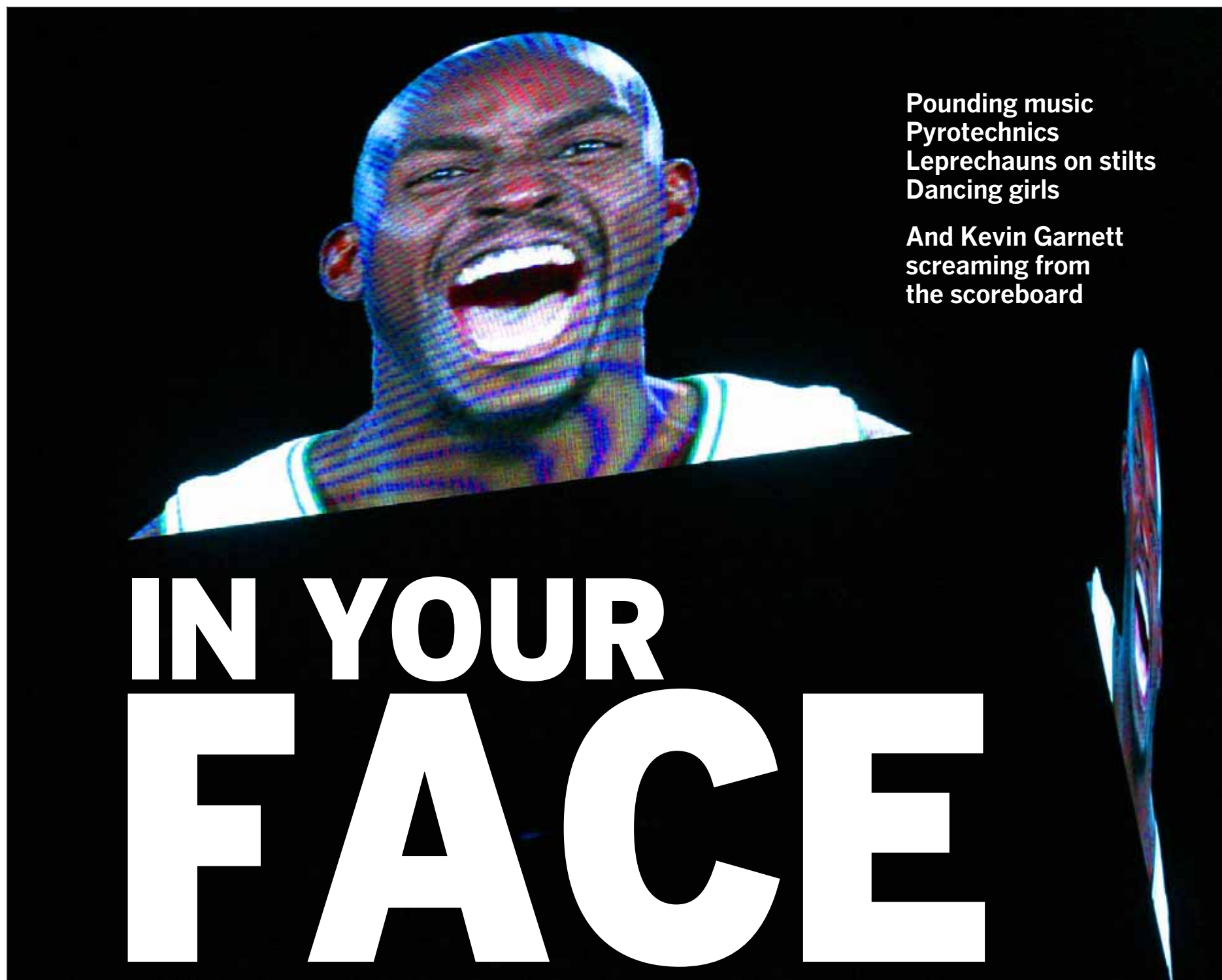
pounding the weaker teams into submission.

That's been the case for Boston in the first month of the season, and after obliterating the Texas Rangers in a four-game series, including yesterday's 8-3 Patriots Day victory at Fenway Park, the Red Sox could be on pace for a 109-53 record.

Boston now has won five straight games, including nine of its last 10 games.

If someone had told the Red Sox during spring training that after

SEE RED SOX, C5



**Pounding music  
Pyrotechnics  
Leprechauns on stilts  
Dancing girls**

**And Kevin Garnett screaming from the scoreboard**

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KRIS CRAIG

**Celtics' games more hoopla than hoops**

BOSTON — Where to start? Is it with the pounding music, as if a band is playing inside your head?

**BILL REYNOLDS** Is it with the dancing girls with their sequined uniforms? Is it with the Jumbotron that hovers over the court like some omnipresent seeing eye?

Is it with the leprechaun on stilts? Is it with the pyrotechnics? Is it with the ringing of a bell as the dramatic music rises?

Is it with the Jumbotron that screams out, ARE YOU READY?

Is it with a giant close up of Kevin Garnett's face on the Jumbotron and he is screaming?

Is it with the constant, unrelenting, nonstop activity, compete with a soundtrack that seems to shake the arena?

It was all there Sunday night, all there in the new Garden as the Celtics opened up the playoffs against the Atlanta Hawks.

And this is all before the game started.

Rest assured these are not your father's Celtics anymore.



Whether it's Kevin Garnett leading a cheer on the Jumbotron, top, or cheerleaders dancing on the parquet, a Celtics game has it all. For a slide show of the pregame extravaganza, go to: [projosports.com/celtics](http://projosports.com/celtics).

Oh, yeah, there are homages to the past, a montage of images that flash by on the Jumbotron, cheers for Red Auerbach, more cheers for images of Larry

Bird. But that is all just a quick prelim, as irrelevant as a layup drill. This is about pro basketball in this

new millennium and any resemblance to the Celtics' glory days of 20 years ago is almost accidental, as gone as the old Garden.

Back then going to a Celtics' game was like going to a basketball cathedral, as pure as some kid shooting baskets by himself in some lonely park in the dying twilight.

No frills. No bells and whistles. No dancing girls. No show. Just basketball.

That had been the appeal of the old Garden — the players changed, but the atmosphere never did. No music. No cheerleaders. Nothing to tell you that it wasn't 1957 anymore.

The only entertainment? John Kiley playing the organ.

Let the Lakers have the Laker Girls, the Hollywood flash. This was basketball the way it always had been, basketball the way it was supposed to be.

But by the time the Celtics moved into the new building in the mid-'90s all that was gone, baby, gone.

SEE REYNOLDS, C3



THE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

Boston's Manny Ramirez went from a starter to cheerleader for yesterday's game.

**For Boston, even bench a tough out**

BOSTON — How do you like this lineup?

The leadoff hitter, and center fielder, playing just his 49th

**JIM DONALDSON** major-league game. The No. 2 hitter, and second baseman, beginning his second full season in the bigs. Batting third, a DH with an average of .160.

At third base, and batting sixth, a rookie playing only his sixth game. Behind the plate, a backup catcher with a career average, coming into this season, of .167 in 126 games. Batting ninth, and playing left field — in place of guy with 496 career homers (six of them this season, in which he's batting .338 and already has six game-winning RBI) — a 28-year-old guy with no homers in 58 major-league games.

And, on the mound, a 23-year-old kid making his seventh big-

SEE DONALDSON, C5

CANADIENS 5, BRUINS 0

**Habs slam the door on Bruins**

Carey Price notches a shutout and Andrei Kostitsyn scores twice as Montreal wins Game Seven and ousts Boston.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONTREAL — Carey Price put a couple of tough losses behind him to save the Montreal Canadiens' playoff run and dash the Boston Bruins' hopes of an improbable comeback.

Price got his second shutout and Andrei Kostitsyn scored twice to lead Montreal to a 5-0 win over Boston last night in the

deciding game of their first-round playoff series.

The 20-year-old rookie stopped 25 shots overall, including 11 in the opening period. Price had allowed 10 goals overall in a pair of Canadiens losses after he got his first playoff shutout in a 1-0 win in Game Four.

"It was a rough couple of games and we knew it just wasn't going our way," Price said. "I knew it was going to turn around eventually, and tonight it did."

Mike Komisarek opened the scoring 3:31 during one of the countless roars from the raucous Bell Centre crowd over the

course of the evening.

The Canadiens took control of the game in the second period, outshooting the Bruins, 17-6, while building a three-goal lead on a superb goal by Mark Streit midway through the period and Kostitsyn's second goal of the series at 15:13.

Kostitsyn punctuated the win with his second of the game, a power-play goal with 2:02 remaining in the third. Sergei Kostitsyn scored with 7.3 seconds remaining.

Top-seeded Montreal will face

SEE BRUINS, C3



AP / RYAN REMIORZ

Canadiens goaltender Carey Price, right, stops a shot by the Bruins' Phil Kessel during the second period of last night's Game Seven of their opening-round playoff series.