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Projo Sports Blog

Kevin McNamara's Celtics audio report, and all you need to know about the day in sports, at projosports.com

Number One

When it comes to retired numbers in Major League Baseball, the New York Yankees are in a class by themselves:

A.L.	TOTAL	N.L.	TOTAL
Yankees	15	Dodgers	10
White Sox	8	Cardinals	9
Orioles	6	Giants	9
Indians	6	Reds	6

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



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CELTICS 99, HAWKS 65

PRIDE AND JOY

The Celtics really left it all out on the parquet

BOSTON — What was the best moment yesterday in an afternoon full of them?

What was the best moment in a Garden lovefest?

BILL REYNOLDS



What was the signature moment in an afternoon full of them?

Maybe that came with 3:22 left in the third quarter, the Celtics already up 34, the game long since decided,

when Kevin Garnett dived for a loose ball near midcourt, his body sprawling across the parquet floor. The ball squirted away from him and was rolling towards the baseline at the Celtics' end of the court when Ray Allen dived on the floor for it, followed by Paul Pierce also diving on the floor for it as it rolled out of bounds.

If you needed any more obvious example that this was a game the Celtics were simply not going to lose, maybe that was it.

The Big Three all diving on the court on the same play in a game that long had been decided.

The Big Three showing that Celtic Pride is more than just some old bumper sticker, a remnant from the glory days.

The Big Three showing that there was no way in this world that the Hawks were going to come in here yesterday and steal this game.

Forget the fact that this game was essentially over by the end of the first quarter when the Celtics were up 11 and it was becoming obvious that the fourth game of this series here in the Garden was going to be very similar to the first three.

No surprise there, really.

The surprise was that there was a Game Seven in the first place.

No matter.

The Celtics did what they had to

SEE REYNOLDS, B3



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON

Celtic pride was restored in Game Seven at the TD Banknorth Garden yesterday, thanks in large part to the tenacious play of Kevin Garnett, who had 18 points and 11 rebounds,

Boston crushes Atlanta, advances

BY KEVIN McNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — Forget J-Smoove, Zaza and the rest of the Atlanta Hawks. Bring on King James.

NEXT GAME
Tomorrow vs. Cleveland 8 p.m.

The Celtics finally ushered the Hawks out of the playoffs yesterday with a dominating, exuberant romp in Game Seven at the Garden, 99-65. The 34-point victory tied for the second-most lopsided playoff win in the franchise's illustrious history.

Next up for the Celtics is a date with LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers. Boston hosts the first two games of the series tomorrow night and Thursday.

The Celtics deservedly caught plenty of heat over the last week for letting the youthful Hawks hang with them for far too long, but they put the hammer down in convincing fashion yesterday. Boston raced to an 11-point lead after one quarter, 18 at the half and a whopping 34 points after three quarters. The bulk of the work in a mop-up fourth quarter was handled admirably by the Celtics' bench.

"I told our guys after the game that that was the Celtics," coach Doc Rivers said. "The defensive energy was off the charts and the offense was great."

The Celtics, who improved to 18-5 in Game Sevens, took the Hawks out with their best defensive effort of the series. The Celts limited the Hawks to 29 percent shooting, forced 16 turnovers and cleaned up off the glass when the game was in doubt.

"Anything you can do in a basketball game, they did," said Atlanta's Marvin Williams. "They killed our five. No matter what five were on the court they did what they wanted to do."

Paul Pierce led the Celtics with 22

SEE CELTICS, B3

RED SOX 7, RAYS 3
Lefty Lester continues to show the right stuff

Jonathan Lester turns in his second straight strong outing as Boston completes a sweep of the Tampa Bay Rays.

BY PAUL KENYON
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — If the weekend was a test to see if Tampa Bay is ready to become a major player in the American League East, then the Rays failed. As evidenced by what happened in the last three days at Fenway, the Red Sox are not ready to move aside just yet.

As the Sox headed out last night for a 10-game, three-city road trip,



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / MARY MURPHY

Red Sox center fielder Coco Crisp tries in vain to haul in a deep drive by Tampa's Akinori Iwamura that resulted in a seventh-inning triple yesterday at Fenway Park.

they found themselves right where they want to be — back in control in their division.

Boston completed a three-game sweep, and a 5-1 homestand, with a 7-3 victory over Tampa Bay. After arriving in town in a virtual tie for the

NEXT GAME

Tonight at Detroit, 7:05 p.m.

top, Tampa Bay is back to chasing the Sox once again.

While the Rays are the team that has made early news with so many young players developing into key contributors, it was the Red Sox who received much

help from their younger players over the weekend. Jacoby Ellsbury, Dustin Pedroia and Kevin Youkilis all had big days yesterday. But the biggest star of all was Jon Lester.

The lefthander seems to be improv-

SEE RED SOX, B5

Bird-braining did little to erase the Celts' deficiencies

Monday Morning Quarterbacking, following a sports smorgasbord of a weekend ...

Well, whoop-dee-do, the Celtics finally polished off the Hawks.

JIM DONALDSON



Pardon me if I'm not all a-twitter about Boston's blowout win yesterday afternoon in Game Seven. It's hard to get excited about the championship chances of a veteran team that couldn't win a game in Atlanta against a young club that was 37-45 during

the regular season. In a better world, teams that finish under .500 wouldn't qualify for the playoffs. The fact the Celts had to go the distance in their opening series is discouraging for fans hoping to see a 17th championship banner added to the Garden rafters after a 22-year drought.

What is encouraging was the second

SEE DONALDSON, B5