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Projo Celtics

Photos of last night's game, player galleries, an interactive quiz and a live NBA scoreboard, at projosports.com/celtics

Celtics rule

The Celtics and Cavaliers are facing off against each other in the NBA playoffs for the fourth time in history, with the Celtics taking the first three series:

| YEAR | ROUND | RECORD |
|------|------------------|--------|
| 1976 | Conf. final | 4-2 |
| 1985 | First round | 3-1 |
| 1992 | Conf. semifinals | 4-3 |

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



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CELTICS 76, CAVALIERS 72

UP TO TASK AT HAND



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON

The Celtics' Rajon Rondo dishes off as the Cavaliers' Zydrunas Ilgauskas closes in during the second half of last night's Game One at The Garden.

Garnett stars as Celts halt James, Cavs

BY KEVIN MCNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — As reporters and locker room attendants stepped over balls of used duct tape and sweaty jerseys, Delonte West looked at a stat sheet late last night and shook his head. "Ray Allen took four shots. He didn't score?" West said to teammate Dwayne Jones. "(Paul) Pierce had two baskets? Damn."

The frustration that filled West's words was etched in the eyes of all the Cavalier players. The Cavs came up with an almost flawless defensive effort, led with 1:30 to play but still let Game One of the Eastern Conference semifinals slip through their hands, 76-72. Game Two of the series is set for tomorrow night.

The game boiled down to the final minute and a showcase of two of the NBA's biggest stars. With the score knotted at 72-72, Kevin Garnett caught the ball in the post, faked to his right and moved to his left for a jump hook over Joe Smith that fell through the hoop with 21 seconds left.

Coming out of a timeout, the Cavs wisely put the ball in the hands of their star, LeBron James. He took the ball strong down the lane but with James Posey on his shoulder and Garnett challenging at the rim, James' layup fell off into Posey's hands. Two Posey free throws

SEE **CELTICS, C3**

Rondo picked most opportune time to excel

Rajon Rondo comes up big for the Celtics, scoring 15 points, adding six assists and grabbing five rebounds in Boston's Game One win over the Cavs.

BY ROBERT LEE
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — He's not one of the Celtics' "Big Three."

In fact, at 6-foot-1 and 171 pounds, he's not even big by NBA standards. But Boston second-year guard Rajon Rondo plays big in big games.

Last night, in Game One of the best-of-seven second-round series against Cleveland, with a lead in the series and home-court advantage at stake, Rondo was at his best.

Despite sitting for nearly the entire fourth quarter, Rondo scored 15 points, which tied a playoff career high for him, and added six assists and five rebounds to help Boston to a 76-72 victory.

The Celtics needed every one of Rondo's points and assists because Boston All-Stars Ray Allen (no points) and Paul Pierce (four) struggled on offense, combining for 2-for-18 shooting

SEE **WEST, C3**

Red Sox starter Tim Wakefield had his knuckleball working to perfection last night. Mixing it with fastballs and curves, he shut out the Tigers on two hits over eight innings to lift his record to 3-1.

AP / DUANE BURLESON



RED SOX 5, TIGERS 0

As fine wine, Wakefield's aging well

Boston's 41-year-old knuckleballer pitches two-hit shutout ball over eight innings to stifle the Tigers.

BY STEVEN KRASNER
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

DETROIT — He's old. Tim Wakefield will readily admit to being 41 years old. He is aware that few pitchers are productive at that age in the big leagues, even knuckleball pitchers.

But that doesn't mean the Boston Red Sox right-hander can't still pitch in the big leagues, as the knuckleballer demonstrated again last night, blanking the supposedly potent Detroit Tigers on two hits over eight innings in combining with 42-year-old Mike Timlin for a geriatric 5-0 shutout at Comerica Park.

Wakefield needed only 98 pitches to get through his eight innings because he was able to throw strikes with his knuckleball, which

allowed him to keep the Tigers off-balance with fastballs and curveballs, too.

Had he finished off the shutout, it would have been his first since 1997. He had enough gas left in his tank, but when manager Terry Francona asked him how he felt and reminded him it's only May, that was the end of the night for him.

"I went down the dugout and

SEE **RED SOX, C5**