

**Celts or Cavs:
Who should be
more confident
after Game One?**

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PROUT NINE TRIUMPHS OVER CENTRAL: View the gallery at HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland

Projo Celtics

Kevin McNamara's Game Two audio preview posted this afternoon, plus playoff photo galleries, at projsports.com/celtics

Walks in the park

Since 1989, the Red Sox have won five 9-inning games when their pitchers allowed at least 10 walks, including Monday night's win over the Tigers, when they issued 10 free passes. The others:

DATE	OPPONENT	WALKS
9/21/00	Indians	10
7/28/98	Athletics	10
5/13/95	Yankees	10
8/1/89	Orioles	10

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Celts thrive on fortifying defense at the Garden

Boston will need another stellar defensive performance against Cleveland tonight if it is unable to bounce back on offense.

BY ROBERT LEE
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

WALTHAM, Mass. — As the old saying goes: "Offense wins games. Defense wins championships."

Coaches have been saying that for years, and Celtics coach Doc Rivers is a big believer in that philosophy.

The Celtics pride themselves on playing tough defense. It carried them through the regular season where they won an NBA best 66 games and held opponents to the second fewest points allowed in the NBA (90.3) and the lowest field-goal percentage (41.9).

Boston is allowing only 76 points per game at the TD Banknorth Garden this postseason, which is the lowest scoring average by a team in the first five home games of a single postseason during the shot clock era (which began in the 1954-55 season).

The Celtics swarming defense was in full display in Game One of the best-of-seven semifinal series against Cleveland. They hope for a repeat performance in Game Two tonight.

They might need it. Boston scored only 76 points Tuesday night.

"Offensively, we were a terrible-looking group," Boston guard Paul Pierce said yesterday after practice. "We turned the ball over 23 times, shot 40 percent from the field. We did just about everything wrong you could do offensively, and what happens, the defense comes and saves the day."

"As a team, we didn't play well offensively, but we did what we had to defensively and that's all that matters," Boston guard Ray Allen said.

Boston's stellar defense limited Cleveland to just 72 points and a lowly 30.7-percent shooting from the field. In addition, the Celtics forced 17 turnovers.

The most impressive thing about Boston's suffocating defense was its ability to shut down Cleve-

SEE **CELTICS, C3**



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON

The Celtics' James Posey, left, and Kendrick Perkins, right, kept Cleveland center Zdrunas Ilgauskas and the Cavaliers' offense at bay on Tuesday night.

TIGERS 10, RED SOX 9

LOSING A GRIP



AP / DUANE BURLESON

Red Sox shortstop Julio Lugo drops a ball hit by the Tigers' Edgar Renteria after fielding the grounder in the ninth inning. The error led to the winning run for the Tigers.

Error foils three Sox comebacks

BY STEVEN KRASNER
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

DETROIT — A checked-swing single. A Julio Lugo bobble of a softly hit grounder. A sacrifice bunt. A groundout. A broken-bat single.

It doesn't sound like much, but that was how the Detroit Tigers pinned a

blown save on Jonathan Papelbon, pushing across two runs in the bottom of the ninth, the last of which came on Placido Polanco's fifth hit of the night, for a dramatic 10-9 victory over the Boston Red Sox at Comerica Park last night.

The outcome ended the Red Sox' winning streak at five games and snapped the Tigers' losing streak at five.

And the shake-your-head, how-did-this-happen result negated three spirited Boston comebacks that overcame 4-0, 5-2 and 8-4 deficits. Thanks to a pair of homers by Kevin Youkilis, a two-out game-tying three-run bomb by Mike Lowell in the seventh and Dustin Pedroia's pinch-hit go-ahead single in the eighth, Boston had a 9-8 lead to turn over to their generally invincible closer.

Papelbon was 10 for 10 in save chances this season. And while this one got away from him, it resembled one of those blown Mariano Rivera saves, a bloop here, a handle shot there.

The Red Sox right-hander was a victim of some tough luck, though the flame-thrower also wasn't able to blaze his way to a key punchout or two, either, against the Tigers, who finished the game with 18 hits in breaking out of their offensive funk.

"It was just a little jab punch, man. One little jab punch ain't going to knock me out, man," sighed Papelbon after icing his shoulder and elbow in the clubhouse, staring off into space for a while as he sat there, trying to digest what had just happened to him and the Sox.

The first sign of trouble was Matt Joyce's 0-and-2 checked-swing bouncer past the mound

SEE **RED SOX, C5**

Newport's Read hopes to take world by storm

Ken Read is leading his crew through training on Narragansett Bay for a nine-leg race around the globe.

BY TOM MEADE
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

NEWPORT — The Volvo Ocean Race will take seven 70-foot racing yachts around the world (if they all survive) in nine legs, including a 12,000-nautical-mile run from China to Brazil. When Newport's Ken Read, skipper of Puma Ocean Racing, looks at the event, he sees it as a series of thousands of sprints, rather than one colossal marathon.

Read, who learned to sail on Narragansett Bay, has returned to the Bay with an international crew to train for the Volvo race, scheduled to start Oct. 4 in Alicante, a Spanish port.

This week, Read and his crew were

training on Rhode Island Sound aboard their new Volvo 70, built by Goetz Custom Yachts in Bristol. Their training partner is the former ABN Amro Two, which set a 24-hour speed record in the last Volvo race, completing 562.4 miles in 24 hours.

The new boat should be faster, Read says. In ideal conditions, it could complete the 2008 Newport Bermuda Race in a little more than a day. The 635-mile race starts June 20.

"It hasn't been since the America's Cup in the early 1980s that Newport has seen a real, full-fledged two-boat, grand prix racing program," Read said as he walked from Puma Ocean Racing headquarters at the Newport Shipyard to the two boats, each hand-painted to look like a Puma running shoe.

Two Volvo teams, Ericsson and Alicante, each have built two boats for training and racing. Having one new boat and the former ABN Amro Two, is like having a one-and-a-half boat training program, Read said.

Aboard the new Puma boat, members of his crew have been outfitting and testing key components, including the canting keel.

Read selected his crew from more than 400 candidates. Many of the world's best professional sailors are available this year, he said, "because the America's Cup is in such a mess," mired in international squabbling.

Each boat in the Volvo event will carry a

"The nastier a storm gets, the more Jerry thrives in it."

KEN READ

Puma Ocean Racing skipper describing his navigator Jerry Cape

SEE **VOLVO, C2**



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / FRIEDA SQUIRES

Ken Read, right, and his crew have been training on Rhode Island Sound aboard the new Volvo 70, built by Goetz Custom Yachts in Bristol.