

Which Sox SS signing was a bigger mistake: Renteria or Lugo?

Tell us what you think at projsports.com/redsox



LINCOLN NETMEN EDGE CUMBERLAND: View the gallery at HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland

Manny's road to 500

Find an interactive quiz plus a flash movie of Manny's home run swings and trots, this weekend at projsports.com/redsox

Touching all bases

Minnesota Twins OF Carlos Gomez became the first player to hit for the cycle in 2008. The rare feat was accomplished only three times last year:

PLAYER	TEAM	OPPONENT
Aubrey Huff	Orioles	Angels
Mark Ellis	Athletics	Angels
Fred Lewis	Giants	Rockies

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



SECTION C
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CELTICS 89, CAVALIERS 73

IN DRIVER'S SEAT

The 'King' seems to have lost his throne

BOSTON — We knew the emperor had no clothes. But who knew The King had no game?

Or, at the very least, no jump shot.

JIM DONALDSON



And, if LeBron "King" James doesn't get it in gear and start shooting the ball a whole lot better, the season will soon be over for the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Speaking of gear, you might want to wait on spending \$139.99 for that stylish new pair of Zoom LeBrons. There could be a major markdown coming.

The King has abdicated his role as reigning superstar. The Celtics' swarming defenders have made him look like a commoner, rather than hoop royalty.

Watching the first two games of this Eastern Conference semifinal, if you didn't know who he was, you'd think James was just a well-built guy with more tattoos than game. And you'd be wondering why in the world the Cavs were letting him shoot so much.

"If LeBron James is open," Cleveland coach Mike Brown said last night, "I want him to shoot."

LeBron's been taking his shots. He just hasn't been making them.

After shooting an abysmal — and embarrassing — 2-for-18 in Game One, in which he also had 10 turnovers, the consensus was that The King would come back with a vengeance in Game Two last night.

"I don't think you'll see that again," Delonte West said in the Cavs' locker room before the game. "He's our number-one scoring threat. He's also our best creator. We want the ball in his hands as much as possible."

SEE DONALDSON, C2



The Cavaliers' LeBron James plows into the Celtics' Leon Powe in the second half. James, the NBA's regular-season scoring leader, ran into waves of Boston defenders again last night, scoring 21 points but shooting only 25 percent.

Celts hit the road with a 2-0 advantage

BY KEVIN McNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — If only the Boston Celtics could take Lucky the Leprechaun, their dancing girls and Gino the Dancing Guido to Cleveland for the weekend.

Those comforts of home paved the way to a dominating 89-73 win last night at TD Banknorth Garden and staked the Celtics to a 2-0 lead over the Cleveland Cavaliers in their best-of-seven series. Now it's time to see if the stranglehold defense, energetic running game and timely offense can travel to Ohio for Game Three tomorrow night.

The Cavaliers have to hope that the Celtics' shaky road play-off efforts during the first round in Atlanta continue because they didn't do much against the Celts here. In two games, the Cavs shot 33 percent and could never find an offensive groove. Their chief bricklayer has been LeBron James. The NBA's leading scorer in the regular season, James has shot 8-for-42 in the series. Last night, James led the Cavs with 21 points but hit just 6 of 24 shots.

"Home court has been good for us," said James. "We have to keep our heads up and we just have to start knocking down shots. We missed open jumpers and layups that you have to knock down."

Unlike Game One when both teams struggled offensively, Boston was much improved last night. Paul Pierce bounced back from a four-point effort to lead the Celts with 19 points. Ray Allen had a goose egg in the first six quarters of the series but exploded for 16 points in the second half last night.

Joining James in double figures for the Cavs was center Zydrunas Ilgauskas with 19 points

SEE CELTICS, C2

RED SOX 5, DETROIT 1

Youkilis is locked in and loaded for Tigers

Kevin Youkilis continues to show his versatility and power at Comerica Park, helping Josh Beckett and Boston to a victory.

BY STEVEN KRASNER
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

DETROIT — Bat him second, it's no big deal. Put him in the seventh hole, no problem. Install him as the cleanup hitter, no sweat.

Play him at first base, sure. Move him over to third, whatever.

Just put Kevin Youkilis in the lineup. The man has become as steady as a rock defensively, establishing fielding records at first base. And lately, Youkilis has begun to flex his muscles offensively, as he did last night in helping to power the Boston Red Sox to a 5-1 victory over

the Detroit Tigers at Comerica Park.

Youkilis belted a two-run homer in the fifth inning, giving Josh Beckett (4-2, 3.70 earned-run average) whatever breathing room he may have needed in easily outdueling erstwhile Tigers ace right-hander Justin Verlander (1-6, 6.56).

It was Youkilis' fourth homer in four games in the series, of which the Red Sox won three. It also was his fifth round-tripper in five games, and boosted his extra-base-hit total to a league-leading 20. Of his last 10 hits, 9 have been for extra bases — 4 doubles, 5 homers. And he has knocked in 12 runs over his last six games, boosting his season total to 27, one behind team leader David Ortiz.

That Youkilis' bat came to life at Comerica should have been no surprise

to anyone. He now has 44 career homers — 8 of which have come in the Tigers' home park. After a 1-for-5 game last night, Youkilis is batting .306 (15-for-49) with 8 homers and 17 RBI at Comerica.

And last night, Youkilis bashed his home run hitting out of the cleanup spot, filling in for Manny Ramirez, who was given the night off from the starting lineup.

He hardly looks like the power-hitting cleanup type, standing in at a solid 6-foot-1, 220 pounds, but Francona can put him anywhere in the order as he sometimes mixes and matches his lineup for regulars' days off without disrupting anyone else's batting-order comfort zone.

He knows he can do that because You-

NEXT GAME
Tonight
At Minnesota
8:10

SEE RED SOX, C5

Red Sox starter Josh Beckett, who notched his 1,000th strikeout, delivers a pitch in the second inning last night against the Tigers' Justin Verlander. Beckett hiked his record to 4-2

AP / DUANE BURLESON

