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**Early fishing tips**

Get Tom Meade's weekly fishing report early. We'll post it later today at [projsports.com/outdoors](http://projsports.com/outdoors)

**Dice on a roll**

Daisuke Matsuzaka's 6-0 record to start this season is impressive, but it's nowhere near the best start to a season by a Red Sox pitcher.

YEAR	PITCHER	RECORD
1986	Roger Clemens	14-0
1973	Roger Moret	10-0
2007	Josh Beckett	9-0
1971	Sonny Siebert	9-0

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



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CELTICS 96, CAVALIERS 89

# GARDEN PARTY, BARELY



LeBron James, left, had a huge first half for the Cavaliers last night, pouring in 23 points. Defending for the Celtics are Paul Pierce (34) and Kendrick Perkins.

## Boston has to claw its way back in Game Five

BY KEVIN McNAMARA  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — At some point in this playoff series, you just knew that LeBron James was going to

throw the fear of God into the Boston Celtics.

**NEXT GAME**

Tomorrow Last night was at Cleveland, 8 p.m. that night.

By halftime in the always-critical Game Five at TD Banknorth Garden, the Boston Celtics appeared to be in a heap of trouble.

James had awoken from his series-long shooting slumber and helped the Cavs to leads of as many as 14 points by pouring home 23 points in 20 eye-opening minutes.

Even so, the Celtics didn't panic. In fact, they barely noticed. Coach Doc Rivers said he hardly brought up James at intermission. He simply stressed patience, control and the urgency to play with poise.

"We hadn't played well and LeBron had played great and it was, what, a two-point game?" said Rivers.

Actually, it was 46-43, Cleveland. A 14-3 finish to the half wiped out much of the Cavalier's lead and when the Celtics took control in a dominant third quarter, they left James in their wake and ran away for a 96-89 victory. Boston can close out the Cavs with another win in Game Six tomorrow night back in Ohio.

SEE **CELTICS, C5**

## Vulnerable Celtics again find salvation at home in Game Five win

BOSTON — Last night was Game Five. Basketball déjà vu.

It was just two weeks ago that the Celtics had been in the same game with the upstart Hawks, back when that series was inexplicably tied, 2-2, and the Celtics went into that game as if the sky was falling.

So it was again last night. Only last night was different, too.

**BILL REYNOLDS**

The Celtics are more vulnerable now than they were two weeks ago, no longer wearing the cloak of invincibility. We've seen too much.

We've seen too many losses on the road, the road that's become a trail of tears. We've seen them disappear in the fourth quarter of the fourth game, when Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen were nowhere to be found, Paul Pierce settled for too many jump shots, and the offense looked like it belonged on the back of a milk carton.

We've seen them lose control of this series, when all they had to do was win one game in Cleveland, bringing them to last night, once again tied, 2-2, in a series they're supposed to win. We've seen a rotation that's very different than the one during the regular season.

In short, we've seen too much. "This team has been questioned all year," Doc Rivers had said before the game. "We will continue to be questioned."

So it was again last night, another must game, another Game Five.

Basketball déjà vu. Only this time it came against LeBron, the most dangerous player in the series, the Cavaliers version of the Big Three all rolled into one player. Without him, the Cavaliers' season would be as gone as disco. Without him, the Celtics would be

SEE **REYNOLDS, C5**

## Kraft feels vindicated after Herald apology

The paper said its report that the Pats spied on their Super Bowl opponent in 2002 was unsubstantiated.

BY HOWARD ULMAN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FOXBORO — Robert Kraft picked up the newspaper at his home yesterday morning and was happy to see the front-page headline in big capital letters: "SORRY, PATS" The Patriots owner felt vindicated by the Boston Herald's apology after a season — and offseason — of reports that the NFL's most successful franchise of the decade had spied on opponents.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell found no more wrongdoing by New England, which had been punished for taping New York Jets coaches in the 2007 season opener. Former Pa-

triot's video assistant Matt Walsh produced no tape of a St. Louis Rams walkthrough before the 2002 Super Bowl while meeting with Goodell on Tuesday.

And the newspaper that first reported on Feb. 2 the existence of such a tape said it had made a mistake and apologized in headlines on the front and back pages and in a brief story.

"I think I speak for all Patriot fans," Kraft said. "We're relieved that this is over and you see that this is nonsense and we were unfairly accused and we're moving on."

"From our point of view, it's the end."

The apology, Kraft said in a tele-

SEE **KRAFT, C2**

## ORIOLES 6, RED SOX 3



AP / NICK WASS

Red Sox reliever Hideki Okajima is beside himself after giving up a grand slam to the Orioles' Jay Payton in the seventh inning yesterday.

## Sox hoping a day off will right their ship

After losing their fifth game out of six, a stunner to the Orioles, Boston's frustration at the plate and on the mound is evident.

BY STEVEN KRASNER  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BALTIMORE — Today's day off couldn't come at a better time for the Boston Red Sox.

The Red Sox' frustration was popping up like little brush fires all over Camden Yards yesterday as Boston wound up dropping a 6-3 decision to the Baltimore Orioles.

Former Red Sox Jay Payton provided the coup de grace, a two-out grand slam off Hideki Okajima in the seventh that wiped out Boston's 3-2 advantage and tumbled the Red Sox to their fourth straight setback, fifth in the last six games, and a 4-6 record on the long journey through Detroit,

Minnesota and Baltimore.

The frustration visibly spilled over in the eighth, when Manny Ramirez had to be restrained by first-base coach Luis Alicea after being called out on a close play by first-base umpire Mike Winters.

Ramirez, who appeared to have been safe on replays, flung his helmet to the ground and barked at Winters. Winters didn't toss the Sox left fielder, but simply pointed to the helmet, indicating Ramirez would be fined for abuse of equipment.

Kevin Youkilis also began to get heated, though not nearly to the

SEE **RED SOX, C3**