

**Lester's no-hitter:
A fluke, or a sign
of how good he
really is?**

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Celts, Sox photos

See slideshows from Celtics-Pistons Game One, and from last night's Red Sox-Royals meeting, at projosports.com

Tek Support

After being behind the plate for Jon Lester's no-hitter Monday night, Jason Varitek became the first catcher in MLB history to have caught four no-hitters:

YEAR	PITCHER	OPPONENT
2001	Hideo Nomo	Baltimore
2002	Derek Lowe	Tampa Bay
2007	Clay Buchholz	Baltimore
2008	Jon Lester	Kansas City

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CELTICS 88, PISTONS 79

CELTICS RIGHT AT HOME



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KRIS CRAIG

Pistons point guard Chauncey Billups gets around Celtics point guard Rajon Rondo, who chipped in with 11 points, in last night's first game of the Eastern Conference Finals at TD Banknorth Garden.

After all of these years, Pistons still tough stuff

BOSTON — Once they were the "bad boys," the first NBA team to bring in-your-face, blue-collar defense into the NBA.

BILL REYNOLDS The names were Isiah Thomas and Joe Dumars, Bill Laimbeer and Dennis Rodman, and the style was lunch pail and hard hat, as tough as working on the line in the automobile factories Detroit was built on.

They were the architects of the style, the same one these Pistons have used to go to six straight Eastern Conference finals. Chauncey Billups. Rash-

eed Wallace. Richard Hamilton. Tayshaun Prince. These are the names now, but the style basically remained the same, as in homage to the guys who came before.

Bring your lunch pail. These aren't the high-flying Lakers, complete with Kobe dunks. These aren't the Spurs, with the low-post brilliance of Tim Duncan and the sprinter's speed of Tony Parker.

These are the Pistons, and what they are is efficient.

From Billups, the steady point

SEE **REYNOLDS, C3**



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KRIS CRAIG

Pistons defender Antonio McDyeess, left, challenges Kevin Garnett of the Celtics during last night's game.

Boston's star power overwhelms Detroit

BY KEVIN McNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — If any team can shake off a sub-par Game One effort in a playoff series, it's the Detroit Pistons.

A few minutes after his team had been dispatched by the Celtics by an 88-79 count last night, veteran big man Rasheed Wallace didn't seem to have a care in the world.

"We're all right. Hats off to them," Wallace said. "They played a good game, they got Game One, but there's a Game Two in a couple of days. There's

On Projosports.com

For the complete report, with postgame stories from Kevin McNamara, Bill Reynolds and Rob Lee, go to projosports.com/celtics

nobody in this joint nervous."

The Pistons did not play well in the Eastern Conference finals opener, especially their stars. Wallace miss eight of his 12 shots and finished with 11 points. Point guard Chauncey Billups was

SEE **CELTICS, C3**

RED SOX 2, ROYALS 1

Masterson able to pitch in once again

Rookie Justin Masterson is rock-solid in his second spot start of the season for Boston, recording his first major-league victory.

BY JOE McDONALD
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — Pressure? What pressure? Just because Red Sox pitcher Jon Lester tossed a no-hitter against the Royals on Monday night didn't make rookie pitcher Justin Masterson feel any added anxiety after being called up from Dou-

ble-A Portland (Maine) to make only his second major-league start for Boston last night at Fenway Park.

He had plenty of time to think about his second start for the Red Sox. He knew about it a few days ago, and he and his wife drove down from Portland on Monday night. He was in his hotel room watching Lester work his magic when he realized he had to follow his friend's no-hitter.

"I was excited," said Masterson. "Then, of course, the announcer said 'Justin, have fun following this one up.' It was crazy. I was just so proud watching it, and I

consider him a good friend. It was just so awesome, and of course rolling through my mind was I wanted to throw a perfect game. But that was taken away in the first inning."

He didn't toss a perfect game or a no-hitter, but he earned his first major-league win.

Masterson worked 6½ innings and allowed just one run on three hits, with three walks and five strikeouts as the Red Sox held on for a 2-1 victory over Kansas City.

"He's a good-looking young pitcher

SEE **RED SOX, C5**



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

Justin Masterson worked 6½ innings and allowed just one run on three hits, with three walks and five strikeouts last night at Fenway Park.