

Which young Red Sox starter has the brightest future?

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**Ray of hope**

While the Celtics continue their playoff march, Ray Allen, one of the "Big Three," is hoping that the Ray Allen of past playoffs resurfaces, and soon:

YEAR	PPG	APG	RPG	3PM
2008	12.5	2.8	3.3	22
2005	26.5	3.9	4.3	31
2001	25.1	6.0	4.1	57
2000	22.0	2.6	6.6	10
1999	22.3	4.3	7.3	9

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"This is the game — Game Two, I've always thought is the game for the home team that is the danger game because of that false sense of security."

**DOC RIVERS**

Boston Celtics coach

**Celts expect a different Pistons team in 2nd game**

Boston is sure Detroit will make subtle adjustments to get better shots in what Doc Rivers calls a "danger game."

**BY MIKE SZOSTAK**  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

WALTHAM, Mass. — Doc Rivers is more worried about his Boston Celtics for Game Two of the Eastern Conference finals tonight against the Detroit Pistons than he was for Game One, even though the series opener occurred 48 hours after the Celtics' physically-and-emotionally-draining Game Seven victory over Cleveland in the semifinals. "I wasn't concerned about Game One, honestly, as far as whether we were going to play or not. I just thought the intensity of Game Seven and the quick turnaround were in our favor," Rivers said yesterday after a film review of Boston's 88-79 victory over the Pistons and a light walk-through.

"This is the game — Game Two, I've always thought is the game for the home team that is the danger game because of that false sense of security," Rivers said. "So we have to come out with a great intensity. Detroit will be better. Chauncey Billups will be better. So will Rasheed (Wallace). We have to be ready for that. But we can be better, as well."

When the ball goes up before another noisy capacity crowd at the TD Banknorth Garden, subtle adjustments may be evident. The Pistons will swing the ball in an attempt to get better shots. They'll bang Paul Pierce on his drives to the basket and try to get a hand in Kevin Garnett's face on his 18-foot jumpers. They'll hassle the young and inconsistent point guard, Rajon Rondo, in the hope he will have an off night. And they'll chase Ray Allen, even though he is mired in a shooting slump.

"Back off Ray? Are you serious?" Billups said before the Pistons practiced in Boston. "He's been through this before. All shooters have. We don't want him to snap out of it. We'll keep the pressure on and see what happens."

The Celtics will try to play better overall defense, run Kendrick Perkins, P.J. Brown and Garnett at Wallace (3-12 for 11points), chase Richard Hamilton and Billups and assert themselves on the backboards. Each team collected 37 rebounds in Game One.

"They're going to make more shots. We have to be better defensively," Rivers said.

Paul Pierce expects a better effort from the Pistons tonight.

"You definitely expect Detroit to make some changes. They didn't win 59 games for no reason. You expect them to try to counter some of the things we do, especially on the pick and roll and

SEE **CELTICS, C3**



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KRIS CRAIG

Doc Rivers, after an offensive display by the Celtics late in Tuesday night's game, is guarding against "a false sense of security."

**RED SOX 6, ROYALS 3**

**IN FINE FORM**



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GRETCHEN ERTL

Veteran pitcher Bartolo Colon, making his debut for the Red Sox at Fenway Park last night, turns in a solid effort, allowing only two runs in five innings of Boston's 6-3 victory over the Royals.

**Colon is a winner in first Sox start**

**BY JOE McDONALD**  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — When Bartolo Colon arrived at Fenway Park yesterday afternoon, he had a certain aura of confidence about him. The veteran right-hander was about to make his Red Sox debut, and when he finally toed the rubber at 7:06 last night, he did exactly what Boston was hoping he'd do — win.

**NEXT GAME**  
Today vs. Kansas City 1:35 p.m.

**COLON'S LINE**

IP	5
H	6
R	2
ER	2
BB	2
K	4

The veteran made his first start for Boston ahead of schedule and was solid in the outing, working five innings and allowing only two runs on six hits with two walks and four strikeouts. The hefty hurler looked comfortable in his surroundings.

"I was very nervous in the first inning, like it was my first major-league start," Colon said.

He quickly settled down, and as a result Boston won its sixth straight game with a 6-3 victory over the Kansas City Royals.

"It was a good beginning," said Red Sox manager Terry Francona.

His teammates definitely wanted to give him a quick cushion, and Jacoby Ellsbury provided a leadoff homer in the first inning. After Kansas City had pushed across a run in the third and another in the fifth, the Red Sox scored four runs in the bottom of the fifth to allow Colon a chance for his first victory for Boston.

Ironically, his first-ever major-league win came at Fenway Park, as a member of the Cleveland Indians on June 7, 1997. He said he actually thought of that moment after starting his Red Sox tenure last night.

"It's obviously very exciting to get my first win here (as a member of the Red Sox)," he said. "It took me back to 1997 and I reminisced about that great moment and compared it to (last night's) great moment."

The win culminated an interesting trip for Colon.

"I'm very excited about the opportunity to get out here and contribute," he said. "I'm very happy with the way I pitched. On top of that, I'm glad the team gave me the support to have some success

SEE **RED SOX, C5**

**Colon made it a jam session in winning his Sox debut**

**STEVEN KRASNER**  
INSIDE THE GAME



little past glory. That's why Boston took a chance on him when he was a free agent this spring.

BOSTON — There was great anticipation as Bartolo Colon took the mound last night for his first start for the Red Sox.

He's a veteran, an ace in the past, trying to shrug off recent arm troubles and recapture a

He didn't disappoint anyone last night.

Don't let his pitching line fool you, either. The rotund right-hander turned in a very encouraging effort.

Yes, Colon gave up six hits and two runs in his five innings, which sounds ordinary. But those hits? Not one of them was well struck.

David DeJesus grounded an opposite-field single in the first; Joey Gathright threaded an opposite-field roller inside the third-base bag for a single in the third; Jose Guillen punched an off-the-fists RBI seeing-eye single up the middle in the third, and in Colon's

fifth and final inning, Gathright bunted for a hit, DeJesus looped an opposite-field broken-bat single to left and Alex Gordon dunked a broken-bat RBI single to right.

Colon broke two other bats and was able to jam several of the Royals. Red Sox outfielders did not have to make one putout behind Colon.

One of his fastballs made it up to 95 mph on the stadium radar-gun reading. He had several at 94, throwing most consistently at 89-92. Colon mixed in a couple of sliders in his 74-pitch outing.

His slowest slider at 78 mph got

Guillen out front on a 2-0 pitch with runners at first and third, one out and Kansas City ahead, 2-1. Guillen, obviously expecting a fastball, popped up to second base for a key out.

Then Colon racked up his fourth strikeout on his final pitch, a 91-mph fastball that had good movement, a two-seamer that cut back in and caught the inside corner on the left-handed-hitting Mark Teahen.

Making the night even better, the Sox rallied for four runs in their half of the fifth and held the lead the rest

SEE **KRASNER, C5**