

South Kingstown vs. Barrington: Who will win the tennis crown?

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Celtics, Sox photos

See galleries from Celtics-Pistons at the Garden and Red Sox-Royals at Fenway, at projosports.com

Kids who just said no

Jon Lester is only 24, but he is not the youngest Red Sox pitcher to throw a no-hitter. Here is a look at the youngest hurlers in Sox history to accomplish the feat:

YEAR	PITCHER	AGE
1911	Joe Wood	21 y, 277 d
1965	Dave Morehead	23 y, 11 d
2007	Clay Buchholz	23 y, 18 d
2008	Jon Lester	24 y, 133 d

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



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PISTONS 103, CELTICS 97

GARDEN PARTY ENDS



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON

Celtics point guard Rajon Rondo, vying for a steal in the final moments of last night's game, and James Posey were unable to topple Rasheed Wallace and the Pistons in Game Two. Detroit tied the Eastern Conference finals at a game apiece and took home-court advantage away from Boston as the series heads for Michigan.

Pistons regain spark and power past Celts

BY KEVIN McNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — The beloved, cherished home-court advantage is now gone for the Boston Celtics. After relying on its 66-win regular season and the home-court edge to deliver playoff wins over Atlanta and Cleveland, the Celtics gave away that crutch in a frustrating 103-97 loss to the Detroit Pistons last night at TD Banknorth Garden. The loss was the first in 10 home playoff games for the Celtics.

The series stands at one game apiece and now shifts to the Motor City for the next two contests, tomorrow and Monday nights.

"It was a big win, a huge win," said Pistons guard Chauncey Billups. "We wanted to steal home-court advantage from them and now we can take it day-by-day."

Billups was one of several steady Detroit veterans who com-

On Projosports.com

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

NEXT GAME
Tomorrow at Detroit, 8:35 p.m.

bined to make one big play after another down the stretch. Boston rallied from an 11-point fourth-quarter deficit to close to two points in the final four minutes but Billups (19 points, 7 assists), Richard Hamilton (team-high 25 points), Tayshaun Prince (14 points, 8 rebounds), Rasheed Wallace (13 points, 10 rebounds) and rookie Rodney Stuckey (13 points) each delivered in the clutch.

"We're very well-balanced,"
SEE **CELTICS, D3**

Determined Pistons got the victory they needed

BOSTON — We knew it was going to end eventually, knew that one night some team was

going to come in here and battle the crowd and the noise, the refs and those old Garden ghosts and beat the Celtics.

We knew it was inevitable, just a matter of time.

We knew that this wasn't going to continue forever, that one night something was going to happen and the Celtics were going to lose their home-court advantage.

We just didn't know it was going to be last night.

But last night the Pistons came in here and did what both the Hawks and LeBron and the Cavaliers could not do, came in here, into this hothouse that is the Garden in the playoffs, and stole a game. It was the Celtics' first home loss since late February, their first in 16 games.

But "stole" is really the wrong word.

The Pistons didn't steal last night's game, as they came in here and won it.

They led at the half.

They led at the end of the third quarter.

And they clung to their lead



JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON

Paul Pierce of the Celtics, rear, pokes the ball away from the Pistons' Tayshaun Prince during the first half last night.

throughout the fourth quarter, clung to it like a team that has been to six straight Eastern Conference finals knows how to do, and won a huge game. They hit tough shots. They refused to buckle when the Celtics came at them like attack dogs near the

SEE **REYNOLDS, D2**

RED SOX 11, ROYALS 8

Grand finale caps winning act at Fenway

J.D. Drew and Mike Lowell hit grand slams and Daisuke Matsuzaka notches his eighth win as the Red Sox sweep the Royals for a 7-0 home stand.

BY JOE McDONALD
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — The Red Sox have a new motto: Let's go 7-0.

After limping home from its last road trip, which concluded with four losses in a row, Boston returned to Fenway Park and dominated the Milwaukee Brewers and Kansas City Royals en route to a perfect homestand that featured many special moments.

Not every homestand at Fenway will be this easy for the Red Sox. The club won seven games against two mediocre clubs. Jon Lester led the way by tossing a no-hitter; Justin Masterson won his first major-league game in his second start, and Bartolo Colon was victorious in his Red Sox debut.

The streak continued here yesterday.

Boston clubbed two grand slams and starter Daisuke Matsuzaka improved to 8-0 as the Red Sox defeated the Royals, 11-8. J.D. Drew and Mike Lowell provided the slams in timely fashion in the second and sixth innings, respectively.

"We needed it and it's always wel-

come," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said of the offensive prowess. "But J.D. took a great swing. We talk about three-run homers; grand slams are welcome, too. And, we needed every bit of it."

The reason the Red Sox needed the 14 hits and 11 runs to come away with the victory was because Matsuzaka wasn't sharp and the bullpen struggled in the later innings, which forced Boston closer Jonathan Papelbon to earn his 14th save of the season.

Matsuzaka took the subpar performance personally, saying there are a lot of

SEE **RED SOX, D5**



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / MARY MURPHY

Mike Lowell, Kevin Youkilis and Manny Ramirez, from left, greet J.D. Drew, second from right, at home plate after Drew's second-inning grand slam against the Royals helped start the Red Sox toward victory yesterday.