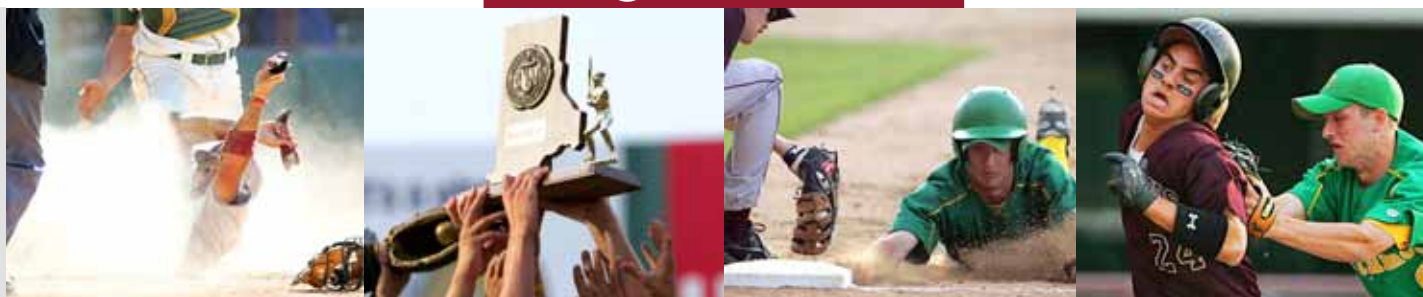


How big a blow is Ortiz's injury, and what should the Sox do about it?

Tell us what you think at [projosports.com/redsox](http://projosports.com/redsox)



ONE CHAMP CROWNED, ONE TO GO: View the gallery at [HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland](http://HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland)

Odom in photos

Archival photos of the Lakers' forward, from URI to Team USA to the NBA, at [projosports.com/celtics](http://projosports.com/celtics)

Not your mama's Rays

The Tampa Bay Rays pitching staff had an ERA of 3.66 in May, the best for any month in franchise history. Here are the team's previous bests:

YEAR	MONTH	ERA
2008	May	3.66
2008	April	3.74
2000	June	3.76
2001	Sept.	3.86
2000	August	3.98

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

SECTION C



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2008

# projo SPORTS

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RED SOX 7, RAYS 4

## Upstart Tampa Bay stung by Boston's rally

The Sox take some punches from the young Rays, then produce a four-run, sixth-inning flurry that wipes out the first-place team's lead.

BY STEVEN KRASNER  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — The high-flying Tampa Bay Rays, peering down at the rest of the American League East from an unaccustomed perch atop the standings,

were handed a dose of reality by the defending World Series-champion Boston Red Sox last night.

The Red Sox absorbed a few body blows from the youthful Rays, but then they knocked out the upstarts, 7-4, courtesy of a four-run, sixth-inning flurry that wiped out a 4-3 Tampa Bay lead.

And Boston did its damage without its vaunted designated hitter, David Ortiz.

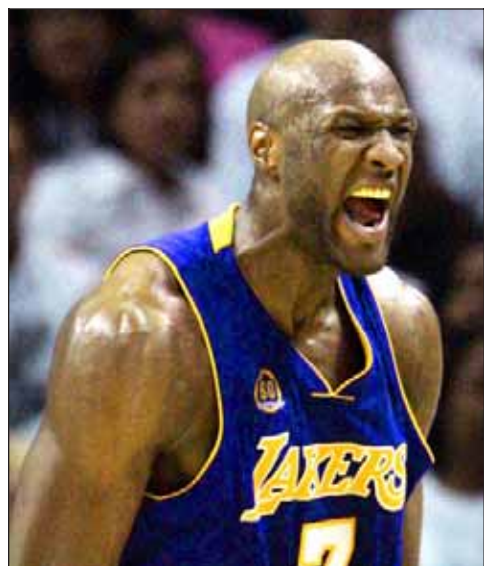
Big Papi is on the disabled list and will be out for quite a while because of an injury to his left wrist, but his teammates didn't buckle under his absence, with the lineup from top to bottom making contributions to last night's victory, which pulled the Sox to within one-half game of Tampa Bay.

Along the way, the Red Sox sent the upstart Rays a message — don't give Boston any extra outs or other offensive gifts.

A hit-batsman and an error opened the door for the Red Sox in the decisive sixth, leading to Jason Varitek's game-tying single up the middle, a tie-breaking two-run double by Coco Crisp and a sacrifice fly by Jacoby Ellsbury.

The rally stretched Boston's home winning streak to 11 games and made a winner of Justin Masterson, thanks also in part to airtight relief from Craig Hansen and Jonathan Papelbon (17th save).

SEE RED SOX, C5



AP / ERIC GAY

Lamar Odom, reacting after scoring against the Spurs in the West finals, at one time was "as lost as lost could be."

## Lamar Odom is fulfilling his destiny in big way with L.A.

Ten years ago I went looking for Lamar Odom's roots.

He was about to play his first game for the University of Rhode Island, the most celebrated recruit in this state's basketball history, and already he had spent the previous year living in the middle of a media firestorm.

His destiny was to one day play in the biggest arenas in this country, to have the basketball world and all of its gold in the palm of his hand.

It was a destiny that had begun in the spring of his sophomore year at Christ the King High School in Middle Village, Queens. He had scored 36 points in the city championship of New York and a grainy black-and-white photograph captured all of it forever, Lamar cutting down the net, a swarm of teammates and fans underneath him, Lamar at the top of his world, the next basketball wunderkind.

But was he ever going to get to his destiny?

That was the question in the fall of 1998.

He had all but become a poster child for everything that was wrong with the sport, a basketball vagabond who had been to three high schools in his senior year and was rumored to be jumping to the NBA after high school. Then he had gone to summer school at UNLV, until his test score was questioned in a Sports Illustrated story.

So he had arrived at URI in the fall of

SEE REYNOLDS, C3



### NBA FINALS 2008

THE SCHEDULE

- **GAME ONE:** Tomorrow at Boston, 9 p.m.
- **GAME TWO:** Sunday, June 8 at Boston, 9 p.m.
- **GAME THREE:** Tuesday, June 10 at Los Angeles, 9 p.m.
- **GAME FOUR:** Thursday, June 12 at Los Angeles, 9 p.m.
- **xGAME FIVE:** Sunday, June 15 at Los Angeles, 9 p.m.
- **xGAME SIX:** Tuesday, June 17 at Boston, 9 p.m.
- **xGAME SEVEN:** Thursday, June 19 at Boston, 9 p.m.

x — if necessary  
All times Eastern. All games televised on ABC.

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Go to: [projosports.com/Celtics](http://projosports.com/Celtics)



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

Red Sox slugger David Ortiz and his big bat will be missed while he recovers from an injury to his left wrist.

## Sox expect injury to heal itself

BOSTON — On Monday night, manager Terry Francona labeled the likelihood of in-season surgery to repair David Ortiz's injured left wrist as "very unlikely," and the Red Sox firmly believe there is almost no chance Ortiz will need a season-ending operation.

General manager Theo Epstein, noting that "the integrity of the tendon hasn't been comprised at all." As such, Epstein added "the doctors are pretty confident that ... there's a pretty significant chance that it'll heal itself."

Ortiz was sporting the cast — extending from above his elbow to his wrist — yesterday. The wrist will remain immobilized for at least the next two weeks, at which time he will be reexamined.

If the immobilization helps the torn sheath surrounding the tendon to properly heal, Ortiz could return two weeks after that.

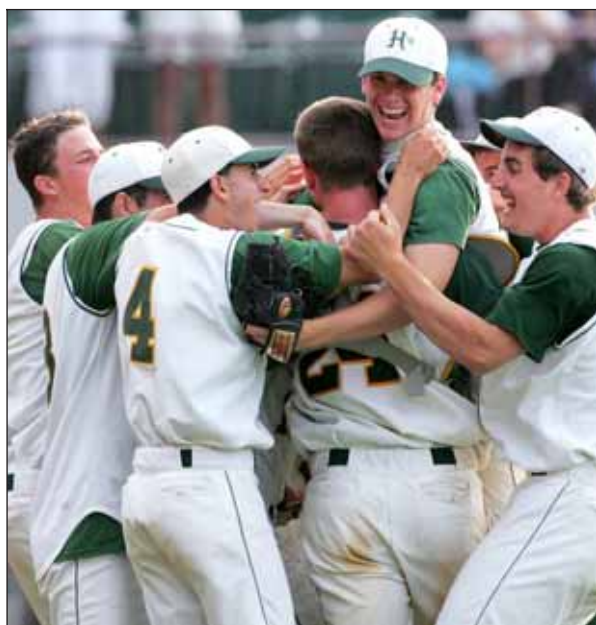
"The doctor says 70 to 80 percent of the people that have this, when they get a cast, it normally goes back [into place]," Ortiz said. "I have clicking when I move my hand. If the pain goes away, that's the main key. If the pain goes away and I still have the clicking, then I can probably play through it and maybe fix it after the season. Otherwise, if I still have the pain, I'm going to be out."

Even if the pain persists, there are ways for the Red Sox medical staff to combat that.

Ortiz yesterday was placed on the disabled list — retroactive to Sunday — for the first time since joining the Red Sox in 2003. His spot on the roster will taken by outfielder/first baseman Chris Carter, who was promoted from Pawtucket.

Ortiz suffered the injury Saturday

SEE MCADAM, C5



Hendricken players, left, celebrate winning the Division I baseball championship yesterday at McCoy Stadium. At right, La Salle's Nick Devonis gets around Hendricken catcher Milan Adams to score in the fourth inning. Hendricken led 12-6, but then had to hold off La Salle's late rally. Page C6

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / RUBEN W. PEREZ

