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**Nathan a top dog**

Entering this season, Minnesota Twins closer Joe Nathan has consistently been among the top saves leaders in the American League:

YEAR	SAVES	RANK
2007	37	6th
2006	36	6th
2005	43	3rd
2004	44	3rd

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

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YANKEES 5, RED SOX 4

**Rookie Gardner's crucial hit gives Yankees the split**

Starting in the fifth inning, the players started to make contact with each other, and it took 10 innings to decide the issue.

BY JOE McDONALD  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

NEW YORK — Nothing is ever boring about a Red Sox-Yankees series. So-mething always seems to happen.

Well, the first three games of this four-game set at Yankee Stadium almost had a ho-hum feeling to it. Sure, there were some exciting aspects to the first three

games, but nothing earth-shattering, which sometimes happens when it comes to the Yankees and Red Sox.

Maybe it has something to do with the fact that neither team is atop the A.L. East standings for the first time in a long time at this point in a season. Maybe it's because the first half of the regular season is coming to an end on Sunday. Either way, the first three games seemed like your normal July series.

That changed last night during a nationally televised game in the Bronx.

In order to appreciate last night's game, which the Yankees won, 5-4, in

the bottom of the 10th inning on an RBI single up the middle by rookie Brett Gardner in only his first 21st major-league at-bat, one would have to take a look back at last season.

It was when then-rookie Yankees reliever Joba Chamberlain twice threw behind the head of the Sox' Kevin Youkilis during an at-bat late in the season. The incident ignited another feud in this storied rivalry.

Fast forward to the fifth inning last night, when Youkilis stood on third base with already two hits in the game off

Chamberlain, who is now in the starting rotation for New York. With the bases loaded, Chamberlain threw a wild pitch, which allowed Youkilis to score the tying run.

On the play, Chamberlain stood right on home plate, so when Youkilis slid in, he made contact with the pitcher's leg.

Chamberlain didn't forget.

During Youkilis' next plate appearance, in the top of the sixth, Chamberlain fired a fastball inside that barely missed Youkilis. He started to take a few steps toward the mound and said a few words

before he stopped.

In the Sox' dugout, hitting coach Dave Magadan and third baseman Mike Lowell stood on the top step displaying their displeasure with the pitch. Youkilis eventually drew a one-out walk. Boston's next batter, Sean Casey, scorched a hard ground ball down the first-base line that was snared by Jason Giambi. The Yanks' first baseman threw to second to get the lead runner as New York was able to turn a 3-6-3 double play. Youkilis slid a little off the bag, attempting to

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**IS IT FAIR OR FOUL?**



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

**MANNY RAMIREZ**

H	2B	HR	R	RBI	Avg.	OBP
85	16	16	52	53	.279	.379



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / MARY MURPHY

**JONATHAN PAPELBON**

IP	SV	W-L	ERA	H	SO	BB
37.0	25	3-2	2.19	26	47	7



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GRETCHEN ERTL

**J.D. DREW**

H	2B	HR	R	RBI	Avg.	OBP
79	16	16	61	51	.304	.413



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**DUSTIN PEDROIA**

H	2B	HR	R	RBI	Avg.	OBP
114	25	9	60	39	.313	.357



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**DAVID ORTIZ**

H	2B	HR	R	RBI	Avg.	OBP
54	10	13	36	43	.252	.354



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**KEVIN YOUKILIS**

H	2B	HR	R	RBI	Avg.	OBP
93	23	13	49	53	.308	.377



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**JASON VARITEK**

H	2B	HR	R	RBI	Avg.	OBP
53	13	7	18	27	.219	.301

**Red Sox: 7 'stars' but only 2nd place**

NEW YORK — On the surface, there would seem to be a disconnect — if the Red Sox are good enough to have a record-tying seven All-Stars on their team, why then are they not good enough to be in first place in the division?

The answer, of course, is that one has little to do with the other.

Despite changes in the selection process the last few years, the All-Star Game is still about name recognition and branding. The Red Sox placed seven players on the American League All-Star team yesterday in part because of their huge fan base, in part because of their visibility, and in part because of the players' achievements.

Statistically speaking, Manny Ramirez may not have been fully deserving of his starting nod. Among all American League outfielders, he went into yesterday's action eighth in slugging, fifth in RBI, tied for fifth in homers, eighth in total bases and eighth in OPS.

But Ramirez is among the game's best-known players, playing for a high-profile team, and that helped him finish among the top three. The same can be said for David Ortiz, who, because he has missed the last five weeks with a wrist injury, has numbers that don't compare to others'. Finally, Jason Varitek, who has been in a horrific slump for the last month, was voted by players because of his defensive game-handling skills and in the

SEE MCADAM, B5

**WIMBLEDON MEN'S SINGLES FINAL**

**Nadal perseveres and tops Federer in grueling match of endurance**

The Spaniard becomes the first player to defeat his friendly rival at Wimbledon since 2002, in a five-set, four-hour classic.

BY CHRISTOPHER CLAREY  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WIMBLEDON, England — In near darkness, one of the greatest tennis matches ever played concluded with Roger Federer hitting a short forehand into the net and with Rafael Nadal flat on

his back on the grass with the flashbulbs lighting up his exhausted, elated face.

Nadal's 6-4, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-7 (8), 9-7 victory signified the end of a record streak at Wimbledon, the oldest of all tennis tournaments, and perhaps the end of an era, too.

No one had beaten Federer at Wimbledon on grass since 2002; he had reeled off five consecutive singles titles here and 65 consecutive victories on grass. Nadal had come the closest in last year's final: pushing his friendly rival to

five sets before ending up in tears in the locker room as Federer equaled Bjorn Borg's modern men's record with his fifth straight victory.

That emotional match immediately took its place among the best Wimbledon finals, but this five-set, 4-hour, 48-minute classic — played on a rainy, gusty Sunday — was better yet and also the longest final in Wimbledon's lengthy history.

"Tried everything," Federer said in his post-match remarks to the crowd. "Got a

little late and everything. But look, Rafa's a deserving champion. He just played fantastically."

Federer, the No. 1 seed, saved two match points in the fourth set tiebreak and was only two points away from victory with Nadal serving at 5-4, 30-all in the fifth set. But Nadal, like his opponent, has a powerful will as well as a powerful forehand.

And though Nadal had to keep serving to stay in the match down the stretch in the fading light, he eventually wrested

control of the match from Federer, breaking his serve in the 15th game to go up, 8-7. He then served for the title, and though Federer saved a third match point with a bold backhand return that Nadal could not handle, he could not save the next one.

Nadal dropped to the grass, his racket flying out of his left hand, and among those standing and cheering in the front row of the royal box were Manuel Santa-

SEE WIMBLEDON, B6