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Pawtucket times

Several MLB broadcasters, including Don Orsillo of the Red Sox, called play-by-play for the PawSox early in their careers:

BROADCASTERS	CURRENT TEAM
Gary Cohen	N.Y. Mets
Dave Flemming	S.F. Giants
Andy Freed	T.B. Rays
Dave Jageler	Wash. Nationals
Glenn Geffner	Florida Marlins

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SECTION C



WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2008

# projoSPO RTS

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## Title run leaves Celtics' Pierce hungry for more

Boston's Paul Pierce is reveling in the accomplishment of his first NBA championship, and all the attention and respect that goes along with it.

BY ROBERT LEE  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — Paul Pierce's legend grew on June 5. On that eventful night, Pierce crumpled to the floor in the third quarter of Game One of the NBA Finals after colliding with teammate Kendrick Perkins.

Clutching his knee and grimacing in pain, Pierce and the Celtics faithful thought that his season was over, and with it, the hopes of Boston winning its unprecedented 17th championship.

But Pierce would return to the game soon after in dramatic fashion and to a standing ovation. He would then bury two clutch 3-pointers in 22 seconds to close out the third quarter and give Boston a 75-71 lead. He scored 11 of his 22 points after the injury, which turned out to be a knee strain, leading Boston to an emotional 98-88 Game One victory. He went on to become the Most Valuable Player of the NBA Finals by leading the Celtics to a 4-2 series victory.

"There is no better trophy to have than the Finals MVP," Pierce said on Monday at his basketball camp at Basketball City.

Boston fans shouldn't have to worry about Pierce's knee any longer. Pierce said that his knee is getting stronger every day.

"The knee is getting better," Pierce said. "I expect to get an MRI on it this week. ... I've still got some soreness in it, so hopefully it's nothing major requiring surgery."

SEE CELTICS, C2



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB THAYER

The Celtics' Paul Pierce is all puffed up about winning an NBA championship.

CORRECTION

## E: Donaldson

Journal columnist Jim Donaldson makes no excuses about erring in his article yesterday when he criticized Red Sox fans for voting Jason Varitek onto the All-Star team.

BY JIM DONALDSON  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

To borrow a memorable and, in this case, accurate phrase from Roberto De Vincenzo, who blew the Masters in 1968 by signing an incorrect scorecard: What a stupid I am!

In attempting yesterday to poke fun at baseball fans, who have turned the voting for the All-Star Game into a popularity contest, it turned out the joke was on me.

I had it in my obviously muddled mind that, since Red Sox manager Terry Francona had named Tampa Bay catcher Dioner Navarro to the American League's All-Star team, the only way that light-hitting (to put it mildly) Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek also would be going to Yankee Stadium for the Midsummer Classic was because he'd been voted in by the fans.

Wrong. Even though Varitek, going into last night's game at Fenway against the Twins, was batting a pathetic .129 since May 22 — with just 15 hits, one homer and nine RBI since then — and is hitting only .215 for the season, he was voted to the A.L. All-Star roster by his fellow players.

By overlooking the White Sox' A.J. Pierzynski, who is batting .296, with 7 homers and 33 RBI, it appears the players, like the fans, are turning the All-Star balloting into a popularity contest.

But that doesn't necessarily make them any dumber than I am.

Yesterday's column really was about Patriots tight end Ben Coates being selected to the team's Hall of Fame. I should have stuck to football and never mentioned baseball.

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RED SOX 6, TWINS 5

# ROCKIN' GOOD

## Ramirez, Moss fuel a stirring Fenway comeback

BY JOE McDONALD  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — The M&M boys proved crucial for the Boston Red Sox last night.

That's Manny and Moss.

Red Sox slugger Manny Ramirez did something he's accomplished 507 times in his career, while rookie Brandon Moss did something he's done only twice as they helped Boston to a 6-5 victory over the Minnesota Twins at Fenway Park.

Moss provided his second game-

winning RBI of the season with a single up the middle to snap a 5-5 tie in the bottom of the eighth inning. Earlier in the frame, Ramirez did what he does best, crushing a two-run homer to tie the game at 5-5 and setting up Moss' heroics.

"At Fenway Park, to get a hit like that," said Moss, "there are not many better feelings. It was very gratifying. The one thing that you try to do when you come off the bench when you don't play every

day is try to do something to help the team. There's so much adrenaline going, you have to be calm and not let the game speed up on you. You have to let ability take over."

He did just that, and so did Ramirez.

Ramirez went a span of 61 at-bats over 23 games between homers, but he couldn't have picked a better time to snap out of his funk.

Ramirez had the game-winning hit

on Monday night, a single through the right side of the infield to give Boston a 1-0 victory over the Twins. He followed that up last night with a more spectacular hit.

"It's nice to see him hit the ball out of the ballpark," said Red Sox manager Terry Francona. Monday night "was what we needed, but sometimes you need a home run."

It wasn't just the home run that proved crucial for Ramirez and the

SEE RED SOX, C5

NEXT GAME

Today vs. Minnesota 1:05 p.m.



AP / WINSLOW TOWNSON

The Red Sox' Manny Ramirez is greeted at home plate by teammate Dustin Pedroia, and both were all smiles after Ramirez's two-run homer tied the game against the Twins at 5-5 in the bottom of the eighth inning last night at Fenway Park.

## Sox certainly have bait if they need to make a switch

SEAN MCADAM



BOSTON — The non-waiver trade deadline is three weeks from tomorrow, but two deals in the last two days — yesterday's that sent Rich Harden to the Chicago Cubs, hard on the heels of Monday's trade that shipped C.C. Sabathia to Milwaukee — make it obvious: trading season is here.

The Sox' interest in Harden was slight, given their concern about his durability (six DL stints in six seasons, including one earlier this year). Their talks with Cleveland lasted as long it took the Indians to request Double-A righty Michael Bowden and Sin-

gle-A outfielder Josh Reddick, at which point the Sox determined the asking price was too high.

Now that Harden and Sabathia are gone, there isn't much in the starting pitching market to tempt the Sox. For that matter, the available relief arms may be cost prohibitive and the team's need for a bat may not be determined until they know if David Ortiz can fully come back from his wrist injury.

Ideally, the Sox would like to fill some future holes — catching, to be specific — but for teams in contention, making in-season

deals for prospects can be highly problematic.

It's unknown, then, what the Sox might be prioritizing in their trade talks. But what is known is that they're dealing from a position of strength. The Sox' farm system might not rival Tampa Bay's or Milwaukee's in terms of tradable prospects, but they have enough to interest teams and make deals.

It helps, too, that so many of the prospects dealt away in recent years (Hanley Ramirez,

SEE MCADAM, C5