

Has Jacoby Ellsbury met your expectations this season?

Tell us what you think at projosports.com/redsox



SOX' ELLSBURY AN ALL-AROUND COMPETITOR: View the gallery at projoSports.com/redsox

Projo SoxTalk

Sean McAdam and Mike McDermott discuss the latest on the Red Sox at projosports.com/redsox

Second thoughts

Red Sox infielder Dustin Pedroia has a 17-game hitting streak. Since 1956, only five other Sox second basemen have had longer streaks:

PLAYER	GAMES	DATE
Denny Doyle	22	1975
Jose Offerman	20	2000
Jerry Remy	19	1978
Dave Stapleton	19	1980
Todd Walker	19	2003

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



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Readers take me back to ball field

When I wrote a column last Sunday reminiscing about my days playing youth baseball in Pawtucket, I was hoping it would prompt readers to recall their own fond memories of long summer days spent with friends on the ball field.

Fortunately, it did. It's been highly gratifying, as well as highly entertaining, to read the responses I've received from readers, so I thought I'd share some of them with you.

There was this, from a man who grew up on Long Island in the 1950s, when the Dodgers, Giants and Yankees all played in New York City:

"Our favorite times were right after the 3 o'clock school bell rang. Grab the glove, bat and ball, hop on the Green Hornet (my bike) and off to Eagle Avenue School, or Lowry's Lot, or Ollie's Farm — you get it — and play till dinner.

"Saturdays were even better. Meet at nine at one of the above (fields) and play till noon. Then go the nearest deli — Jewish, German or Italian, it didn't matter — pool our meager funds to buy a pound of salami and cheese, and a couple of big hero rolls, and large sodas. Cut the bread with a Scout knife — or just break it, if too impatient — chow down like we had never eaten before, and argue Giants, Dodgers and Yankees, or Mays, Snider and Mantle, or Maglie, Newcombe or Ford, with our mouths full.

"Then it was back to the diamond — usually makeshift — until dinner. Those were the days, my friend, and my grandkids will never know them.

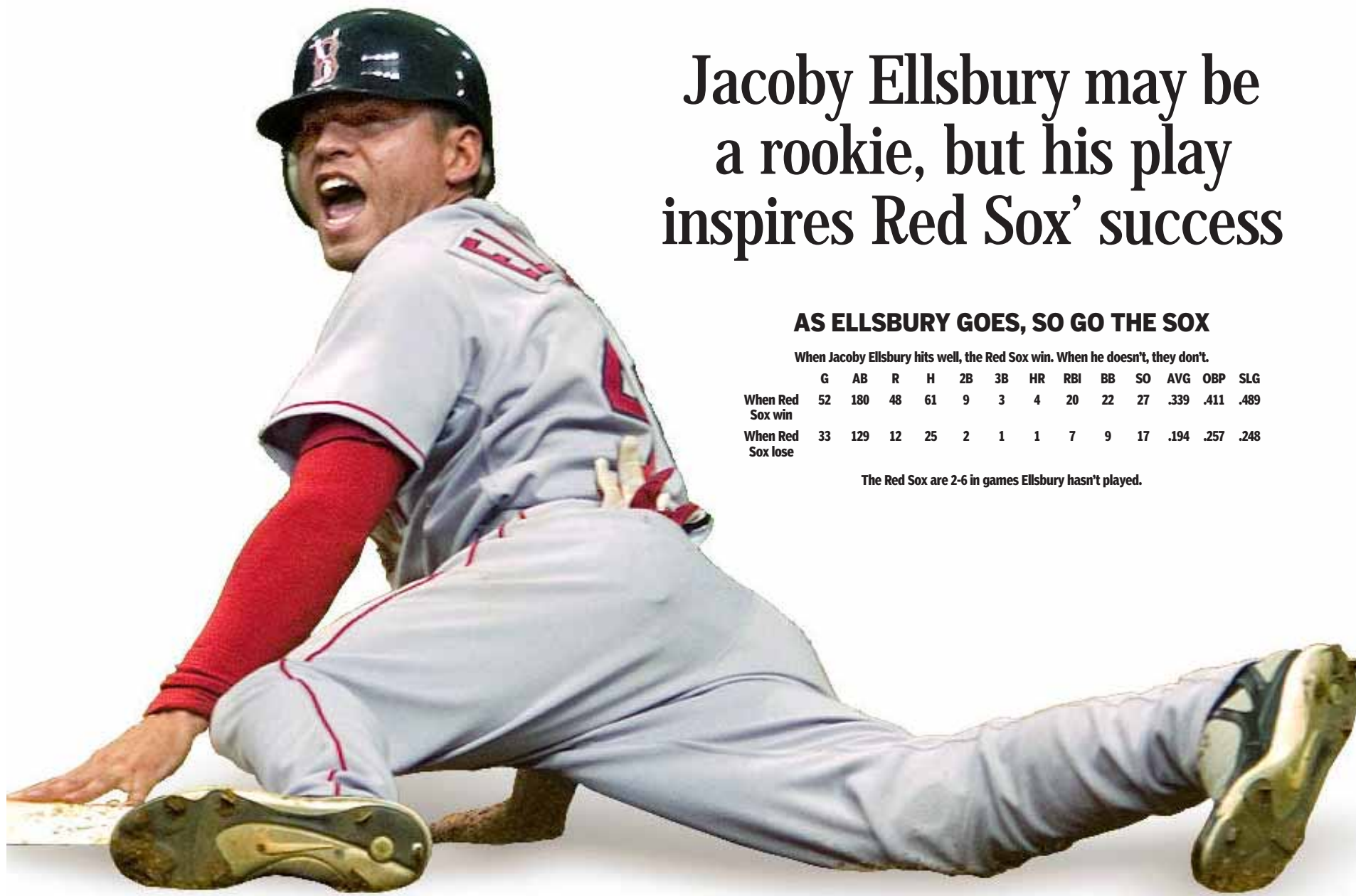
SEE DONALDSON, C5



Do you have a sandlot baseball memory to share? Send it in at projosports.com

THE CATALYST

Jacoby Ellsbury may be a rookie, but his play inspires Red Sox' success



AP / STEVE NESIUS

AS ELLSBURY GOES, SO GO THE SOX

When Jacoby Ellsbury hits well, the Red Sox win. When he doesn't, they don't.

	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	AVG	OBP	SLG
When Red Sox win	52	180	48	61	9	3	4	20	22	27	.339	.411	.489
When Red Sox lose	33	129	12	25	2	1	1	7	9	17	.194	.257	.248

The Red Sox are 2-6 in games Ellsbury hasn't played.

BY STEVEN KRASNER
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

Jacoby Ellsbury went 4-for-6 Wednesday afternoon against the Minnesota Twins.

The Boston Red Sox crushed the Twins, 18-5, on that day.

Those statements are not two independent, unrelated thoughts. They fit together.

And while Ellsbury was not the only member of the Sox to have a good day in the series finale at Fenway Park, it has been clear to everyone on the team this season that he is the engine at the front of the train that drives Boston's offense.

Yes, it may be a simplification and probably unfair on a veteran team with other bona fide offensive stars to say that how Ellsbury goes, the Red Sox offense goes.

Ellsbury had been struggling a bit lately, unable to get on base and unleash his base-running speed on the opposition, and Boston had been struggling to score runs.

On Wednesday, though, the Twins had a first-hand look at why Ellsbury is

a strong candidate for rookie of the year, and how important he is as a catalyst to the Red Sox' offense.

"There's a direct correlation with how we play and him getting on base. We are a different team when he's on base."

TERRY FRANCONA
Red Sox manager

he's on base." Added Boston first baseman Kevin Youkilis, "When Jacoby gets on base and uses his speed, that's a huge thing

for us." Ellsbury showed a little of everything at the plate against the Twins. He opened the game by lacing a single to right, pulling a fastball from Livan Hernandez. Ellsbury slapped a single through the shortstop hole in his second at-bat, flied to the warning track in right, got credit for a double when his fly ball to right-center was lost in the sun, lined a single to left and lined out hard to shortstop.

Defensively, Ellsbury, as is his custom, flashed the leather. Playing center, he went a long way and made a diving catch on a ball in left-center.

SEE RED SOX, C5

Tired of suffering, Kate Conklin chose path to a new life

Despite a painful disorder called erythromelalgia, she will compete in the Amica Ironman 70.3 Rhode Island this weekend.

BY CAROLYN THORNTON
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

One morning about four years ago, Kate Conklin woke up planning to make that day her last.

Diagnosed a year earlier with a rare and extremely painful disorder called erythromelalgia, also known as Mitchell's disease, the young woman

felt she had been robbed of everything.

Once a competitive swimmer, she now could no longer walk because her feet hurt so badly.

Once a CPA, she could no longer work.

Conklin felt helpless and after enduring night after night in sleepless

agony, she just couldn't take it anymore.

"I wrote the suicide note and everything," she said. "I did not want to scream in bed anymore because I screamed in bed for so long. I just wanted to be dead."

But Conklin did not kill herself that day.

As she lay in bed, she knew she didn't really want to die. She just knew that her life couldn't continue

this way.

Somewhere inside, Conklin found a glimmer of hope. Faced with the choice to "get busy living or get busy dying," she chose to regain control of her life and channel her energy into increasing awareness about erythromelalgia, and letting others suffering with the disorder know that they are not alone and that there is a way to



Kate Conklin, who decided to "get busy living," will be in the Amica Ironman 70.3 Rhode Island, even though she has a rare and painful disease.

THE JOURNAL / CAROLYN THORNTON

SEE CONKLIN, C5

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