

Can the Celtics repeat as champs without James Posey?

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See pictures of each high school's Honor Roll Boy and Girl nominees, today on pages D4 and D5

Getting a closer look

The Red Sox begin a series with the L.A. Angels tonight and may get a look at closer Francisco Rodriguez, who this year set an MLB record with the most saves (37) before the All-Star break:

PITCHER	TEAM	YR	SVS
John Smoltz	Braves	'08	34
Danny Graves	Reds	'03	33
Eric Gagne	Dodgers	'04	32
Mariano Rivera	Yankees	'02	32



FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2008

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Phone: 401-277-7340 Fax: 401-277-7444 E-mail: [pjsports@projo.com](mailto:pjsports@projo.com)

# BIG PAPI IS UP TO OLD TRICKS



David Ortiz, the Red Sox DH who has been on the DL since May 31, celebrates after hitting a solo home run last night in a rehab start for the PawSox. Above right, Pawtucket fans show their support for Ortiz.

## Boston's DH homers in 1st rehab start

PAWTUCKET — The count was 1-and-2 to the first batter for the Pawtucket Red Sox in the bottom half of the fourth inning of a scoreless game when the sellout crowd began to chant.

"Pa-pi! Pa-pi! Pa-pi!"

When they start calling your name," said Big Papi, aka David Ortiz, "it puts you in the mood."

Big Papi proceeded to put the next pitch from Toledo right-hander Virgil Vasquez out of the park, a swing that greatly improved the mood of Red Sox fans from coast to coast as the defending World Series champions start the second half of the season tonight in Anaheim.

The ball got out in a hurry — a line drive that rocketed over the low fence in front of the visiting bullpen in right field, a cozy 330 feet from home plate.

While it wouldn't have been a homer at Fenway Park, which isn't as friendly to left-handed batters as McCoy Stadium, it nevertheless was a powerful indication that Big Papi will soon be back in Boston, swinging for the fences.

Before the game — the first of what is expected to be seven minor-league outings (four in Pawtucket, followed by three for Double-A Portland) for Ortiz as he rounds out his rehab from a partially torn tendon sheath in his left wrist that has kept him on the sidelines since May 31 — the big fellow was asked whether he'd be swinging for the fences.

"Don't I always?" he replied with a smile.

He was swinging hard in batting practice, nearly decapitating PawSox manager Ron Johnson, who was pitching, with a liner back to the mound.

"I tried to swing the way I normally do — the hardest I can," Ortiz said.

The last month-and-a-half has been hard on Big

SEE DONALDSON, D7

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On [projosports.com/redsox](http://projosports.com/redsox): See video from David Ortiz's first night at McCoy Stadium, upload your own photos, and get updates on his performance tonight.

**BIG PAPI'S PERFORMANCE**

AB	R	H	HR	BI	BB	SO	AVG.
3	1	1	1	1	1	0	.333

## Reliability of Sox' bullpen is key to 2nd-half success

BY STEVEN KRASNER  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

The oddsmakers around the country like the Boston Red Sox' chances to not only win the American League East for the second straight year, but also to make it to the World Series with a chance to successfully defend the championship they won a year ago.

That's what's being written. Of course, as the cliché goes, games aren't played on paper. They are played on the field, and while Boston is in first place, a

half-game ahead of the Tampa Bay Rays, the season begins its stretch run for the Red Sox tonight, when they open the second half with a post-All-Star break road trip in Anaheim against the Los Angeles Angels, the top team in the A.L. West and a likely candidate for a postseason berth.

While it's likely there will be October baseball again in Boston, that does not mean that the Red Sox are a lock.

SEE RED SOX, D7

## Parkhurst revs up his game for Olympics



The Cranston native and Revolution defender realizes a dream after he's named to the U.S. soccer team.

BY ROBERT LEE  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

CRANSTON — Michael Parkhurst is living his dream. When he first began playing soccer when he was 6 on the fields of Cranston, he never thought that he would play the game that he grew to love for a living.

But that's exactly what the New England Revolution defender is doing.

One week after finding out that he was selected to next week's Major League Soccer All-Star Game, Parkhurst accepted an invitation yesterday to play for the U.S. soccer team at the Beijing Olympics.

"Anytime you get called up to the national team it's a great feeling," Parkhurst said. "Everybody, no matter what nationality they

SEE PARKHURST, D3

Michael Parkhurst, right, who was chosen for the MLS All-Star Game, will be heading for the Olympics next month in Beijing.

AP / JEFF LEWIS