

The Manny Ramirez trade: Is it a good deal for the Red Sox?

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THE MANNY RAMIREZ ERA IN BOSTON: View the gallery at projosports.com/redsox

The Manny reaction

Blog reports from Sean McAdam on the Manny Ramirez trade for Jason Bay at projosports.com/redsox

Good for the Goose

When Goose Gossage was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame on Sunday, he became the fifth primary reliever to earn the honor. The others:

PLAYER	YEAR
Bruce Sutter	2006
Dennis Eckersley	2004
Rollie Fingers	1992
Hoyt Wilhelm	1985

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SWINGING THE DEAL



AP / PAT SULLIVAN

The Red Sox are hoping that Jason Bay, acquired from the Pittsburgh Pirates, will provide some of the offense that had been supplied by Manny Ramirez, who was traded to the Dodgers yesterday.

Sox forced to pick up Ramirez's salary, lose 2 players to get Bay

BY SEAN McADAM
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

In order to trade a future Hall of Famer and acquire a player in return, the Red Sox had to agree to pay his remaining salary and include two young players.

That should tell you all you need to know about Manny Ramirez's value around the game and exactly how desperate the Red Sox were to rid themselves of his presence by yesterday's non-waiver trading deadline.

After 18 hours worth of talks in-

volving the Florida Marlins and Pittsburgh Pirates proved futile, the Red Sox scrambled to assemble another swap at the eleventh hour and finally found a willing partner in the Los Angeles Dodgers.

General manager Theo Epstein was working with a mandate from within his own clubhouse. After his team's dispiriting loss to the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim on Wednesday night, Epstein met with a handful of Red Sox veterans, all of whom delivered the same message: Manny had to go.

If his antics weren't directly re-

Bill Reynolds reacts to the trade of Manny. **Story, Page A-1**

sponsible for the team's slide — the Sox have lost five of six on the current homestand, their worst stretch of play at Fenway all season — they were certainly serving as a distraction.

Worse, the players feared that if Ramirez remained with the Sox for the rest of the season, he couldn't be counted upon in the middle of a pennant race. In their minds, there were no guarantees that Ramirez

wouldn't engage in further petulant displays that could sidetrack the team's playoff push.

In the past, teammates had advised against just such a deal, reminding management that, whatever his faults, Ramirez's skills as a run producer were too valuable.

But in the last week or so, Ramirez lost the clubhouse and the equation was turned on its head: No matter how good he was as a hitter, it wasn't enough to outweigh the negatives.

SEE McADAM, C5

CHANGING PLACES

- **To the Red Sox**
Jason Bay (from Pittsburgh)
- **To the Dodgers**
Manny Ramirez (from Boston)
- **To the Pirates**
Craig Hansen (from Boston)
Brandon Moss (from Boston)
Andy LaRoche (from Los Angeles)
Bryan Morris (from Los Angeles)

Don't expect offense to pack as much punch

Jason Bay is a two-time National League All-Star but he doesn't hit for as much power as Manny Ramirez.

BY STEVEN KRASNER
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

Make no mistake, as an offensive player, Jason Bay is no Manny Ramirez in his prime.

By all accounts, Bay is a solid professional, a person who loves the game and plays hard, and is a nice, down-to-earth guy, to boot.

He'll turn 30 on Sept. 20, which makes him six years younger than Ramirez, the slugger Bay is replacing in left field and in the batting order for the Boston Red Sox after yesterday's three-team, non-waiver, trade-deadline deal with the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Pittsburgh Pirates.

He's also a two-time All-Star

who has bashed 140 homers since breaking into the big leagues with San Diego in 2003, 139 of them for the Pirates, to whom he was traded by the Padres during the 2003 season.

NEXT GAME

Tonight vs. Oakland 7:05 p.m.

He's a right-handed hitter who should be able to take advantage of the Green Monster as well as being a defensive upgrade from Ramirez in left field.

That's all well and good. Just don't expect him to team with David Ortiz in the middle of the Red Sox batting order and provide Boston with as fearsome a one-two slugging punch as Ortiz and Ramirez supplied for almost

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THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GRETCHEN ERTL

The Red Sox organization viewed Manny Ramirez as a disruptive presence whose time had expired.

Trades leave Red Sox as underdogs for title

The questions you have to ask yourself if you're a Red Sox fan are these: Is the team better now, after the trading deadline, than it was two weeks ago? Are the Sox better equipped, in relation to the other contenders, to defend their American League title and World Series championship? Has Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein done a better job than his counterparts Brian Cashman of the Yankees, Tony Reagins of the Angels and Andrew Friedman of the Rays in strengthening his team for the stretch run?

JIM DONALDSON

The answers are: No. No. No, no, and maybe. Two weeks ago, Boston was coming off the All-Star break

atop the A.L. East. Now the high-priced Sox are three games behind the bargain-basement Rays and battling to stay ahead of the resurgent Yankees in the battle for second place in the division.

But that's not what's important right now.

What matters most at the moment is that, while the Yankees have added Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez, Xavier Nady and Damaso Marte, and while the Angels have picked up slugger Mark Teixeira, the Red Sox have traded away one of the greatest hitters in team history — or, for that matter, baseball history — in Manny Ramirez.

It's all well and good to say "goodbye and good riddance"

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