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RED SOX FINISH WITH A FLOURISH: View the gallery at [projoSports.com/redsox](http://projoSports.com/redsox)

Projo SoxTalk

Sean McAdam discusses the Sox-Yanks series in his daily audio feature, posted later today at [projosports.com/redsox](http://projosports.com/redsox)

Twins killer?

The Minnesota Twins' quest to make the playoffs this year may depend on how well they do on their current road trip, the sixth longest in team history:

YEAR	DAYS	GAMES
1961	18	18
1962	17	18
1963	17	17
1969	17	15
1964	17	14
2008	15	14

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THE 2008 SUMMER OLYMPICS

# They did the U.S. proud



Members of the United States men's basketball team, from left, LeBron James, Deron Williams, Dwyane Wade and Carlos Boozer celebrate their 118-107 victory over Spain in the gold-medal game yesterday in Beijing.

The NBA superstars became American's Boys of Summer by performing with grace, class and teamwork en route to the gold.

BY MICHELLE KAUFMAN  
MIAMI HERALD

BEIJING — It wasn't so much the way the U.S. men's basketball team played in its 118-107 gold-medal win over Spain that proved how deeply these NBA superstars cared about the Olympics, although certainly their intensity against the talented Spaniards spoke volumes.

But even more telling was the way this collection of U.S. multi-millionaires behaved away from the court the last two weeks and during yesterday's medal ceremony with a level of grace, class and downright sentimentality that had been lacking in so-called Dream Teams of the past. Despite a combined annual income of roughly \$500 million, these 12 players did not act like they were too cool to be here. Quite the contrary.

U.S. players made it a point to visit the village often and mingle with row-

ers and gymnasts. They woke up early to see Michael Phelps swim, and sheepishly asked him to pose with them for photos. They not only showed up to watch the U.S. women's basketball team every time they played, but they gave retiring four-time gold medalist Lisa Leslie a standing ovation as she exited her final game Friday night.

Everywhere they went, they posed for photos and signed autographs for the masses of volunteers. "Being among the hard-working Chinese people, seeing the volunteers show up at the arena every day with big smiles on their faces, that just made us want to go out and play even harder," said Dwight Howard.

Four years ago — partly because of fear of terrorism in Athens — the U.S. team was housed on the Queen Mary II luxury cruise ship, anchored far away from the rest of the Olympics. The team never got into the spirit of the event,

and walked away embarrassed with a bronze medal, behind Argentina and Italy.

This time, they immersed themselves, and they looked as giddy as a high school championship team after surviving a thrilling game against the Spaniards, who closed to within four points with two minutes to go.

The U.S. players linked arms and bobbed up and down at midcourt, tug-

SEE MEN, B4

INSIDE

■ A Chinese official tries to explain the age discrepancies for its women's gymnasts. **Page B5.**

■ The United States won the overall medal count thanks to its dominance in team sports. **Page B5.**

■ Despite a stunning closing ceremony, these Games will get mixed reviews. **Page B5.**



AP / FRANK GUNN

Boston's Coco Crisp, left, rushes to the aid of right fielder Jacoby Ellsbury after Ellsbury collided with the wall while chasing down a long fly ball by Toronto's Adam Lind.

## Lowrie blast in 11th lifts Red Sox past Blue Jays

After Dustin Pedroia's three-run homer and some solid bullpen work, Jed Lowrie blasts a solo shot that gives Boston the victory and a 4-2 record for the road trip.

BY JOE McDONALD  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

TORONTO — The cut above Jacoby Ellsbury's eye and the soon-to-be bruises on his right shoulder perfectly tell the story of yesterday's game at the Rogers Centre.

RED SOX  
6  
BLUE JAYS  
5

NEXT GAME

Tomorrow at Yankees 7:05 p.m.

The Sox' right fielder slammed shoulder- and head-first into the outfield wall in front of the visitors' bullpen as he snared a line drive by the Blue Jays' Adam Lind in the bottom of the fourth inning, and it was that kind of effort that reverberated through the lineup as Boston finished with a dramatic 6-5 victory over Toronto in 11 innings.

Rookie Jed Lowrie's solo home run in the top of the 11th gave the Red Sox the victory, and they conclude their second leg of this three-city road trip with a 4-2 mark. Three games remain against the Yankees in New York.

Lowrie and Ellsbury weren't the only heroes. This game featured lead changes, home runs, timely hitting, solid pitching and spectacular defense in an all-out, grit-your-teeth effort from both clubs.

And this is the type of victory this group of banged-up, struggling Red Sox players needed to jump-start them into the stretch run.

"That was one of the funniest games I've been a part of in a long time," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said.

Dustin Pedroia crushed a three-run homer in the third inning; Coco Crisp added a solo shot in the seventh before Lowrie hit the eventual game-winning blast in the 11th. Boston starter Daisuke Matsuzaka had to settle for a no-decision and will have to wait

SEE RED SOX, B7

## Another questionable week for Brady

If Patriots quarterback Tom Brady doesn't play Thursday, he will enter the regular season without a down of preseason action.

BY ROBERT LEE  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — Will Tom Brady play in New England's final exhibition game, Thursday night against the New York Giants?

It is the question of the week.

Inquiring minds want to know. Will the reigning NFL Most Valuable Player take the field for a tune-up appearance before the Patriots begin the regular season?

Will the man who set the NFL record for most touchdown passes in a season (50), highest touchdown-interception differential (+42), most games with three or more touchdown passes (12), most touchdown passes in a month (20

in October), and highest completion percentage in a game (92.9 percent on Jan. 12, versus Jacksonville) last season be healthy enough to face the team that sacked him a whopping five times in Super Bowl XLII?

Or will the Patriots franchise quarterback enter the regular season without preseason action against another NFL team?

So far, Patriots coach Bill Belichick is being tight-lipped.

"For Tom, if we decide to play him, then that will be an opportunity for him, and if we don't decide to play him or he can't play or whatever it is, then it will be an opportunity for someone else," Belichick said.

Brady said he expected to play in the Pats' second exhibition game, against Tampa Bay, but he told the Patriots coaching staff that he had a sore right foot, so he didn't make the trip to Tampa.

He missed Friday's game against Philadelphia apparently as a precautionary measure, and there has been no word yet if he will suit up Thursday.

Belichick said he expected backups Matt Cassel, Matt Gutierrez, and especially Kevin O'Connell, who sat out Friday's game, to see some action against the Giants.

"If certain players don't play, then the other players at that position get more of an opportunity to play — whatever spot that is," Belichick said. "That is something that Matt Cassel, Gutierrez, and Kevin — I think all look for that opportu-

nity to play their position, get a chance to perform, contribute and show what they can do.

Last "Friday night, we saw a little over a half with Cassel and less than a half with Gutierrez. I am sure [this] week against the Giants we will see Kevin get a chance to play some and we will figure out what the rest of the playing time is — based on everyone's availability and so forth."

In the opportunities that the three backup quarterbacks have been given, Gutierrez has made the most of them — more so than Cassel and O'Connell.

After Gutierrez completed 10 of 16 passes for 76 yards and an interception against Baltimore in the Patriots exhibition opener, he sat out

SEE PATRIOTS, B2



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / RUBEN W. PEREZ

Pats QB Tom Brady was on the bench during the Ravens game on Aug. 7. He might be there Thursday, too.