

What is your favorite memory of baseball at Yankee Stadium?

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RED SOX HAVE A HISTORY AT YANKEE STADIUM: View the gallery at [projosports.com/redsox](http://projosports.com/redsox)

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**The Comeback Kids**

The N.Y. Yankees have been very successful when forced to battle back from a deficit this year. Only the Detroit Tigers have had more come-from-behind wins:

TEAMS	WINS
Detroit Tigers	38
New York Yankees	37
Milwaukee Brewers	37
Tampa Bay Rays	37

For up-to-the-second stats and scores: [projosports.com/redsox](http://projosports.com/redsox)

SECTION C



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**projo**SPORTS

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Yankee Stadium's inaugural game was on April 18, 1923 vs. the Boston Red Sox — the team that sold Babe Ruth to New York in 1919.



JOURNAL FILES

# BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE

It may be the last Sox-Yanks series at the Stadium

BY JOE McDONALD  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

NEW YORK — When the Red Sox begin their three-game series against the Yankees tonight, it very well could be the last time Boston plays at Yankee Stadium.

The facility will meet its demise at the end of the 2008 season and be turned into a city park as the Bronx Bombers move into their new state-of-the-art ballpark next April. There's still a small chance the greatest rivalry in baseball could be resumed in the postseason, but at this point, that does not seem likely.

Tampa leads the A.L. East with a 4½-game lead over the Red Sox and 9½ games over the Yankees. Boston leads the wild-card race while New York is five games back.

For some Red Sox players, this series will have a nostalgic feel to it. Don't think for a New York minute, however, that the club will allow itself to get lost in a fog of memories. The Sox need to win this series to keep a safe distance between themselves and the always dangerous Yankees.

Red Sox manager Terry Francona said as much over the weekend in Toronto when he was asked to recall his memories and feelings about "The House That Ruth Built." After all, Francona managed the Red Sox to one of the greatest comebacks in all professional sports by beating the Yankees at Yankee Stadium to win the 2004 ALCS after being down, 3-0, in the series.

Francona also managed the American League team at this summer's All-Star Game in the Bronx. But the manager would rather talk about the here and

SEE STADIUM, C5

**LAST TIME IN**

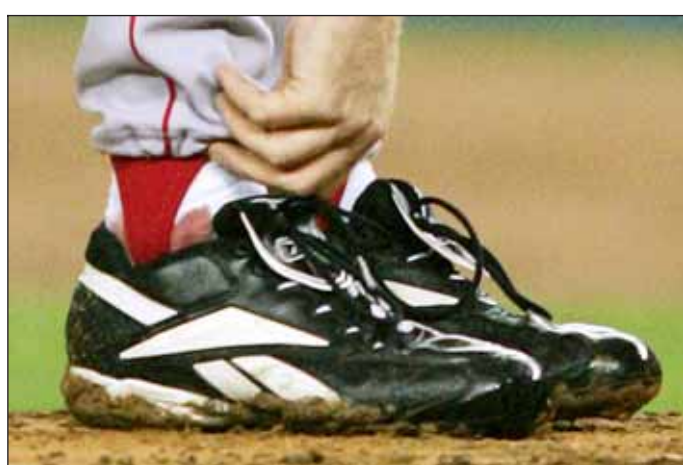
Unless the Red Sox and Yankees meet in the playoffs, the next three games will mark Boston's final appearance at the old Yankee Stadium. The Sox were the Yanks' first opponent in the Bronx. The teams played the first game at the stadium on April 18, 1923. The Yankees have a 489-287-4 edge in games at Yankee Stadium, both regular season and postseason.

This week's matchups:

■ **TONIGHT:** 7:05 p.m., Tim Lincecum (7-8, 3.67) vs. Andy Pettitte (13-9, 4.17)

■ **TOMORROW:** 7:05 p.m., Paul Byrd (8-11, 4.61) vs. Sidney Ponson (7-4, 4.67)

■ **THURSDAY:** 1:05 p.m., Jon Lester (12-5, 3.49) vs. Mike Mussina (16-7, 3.45)



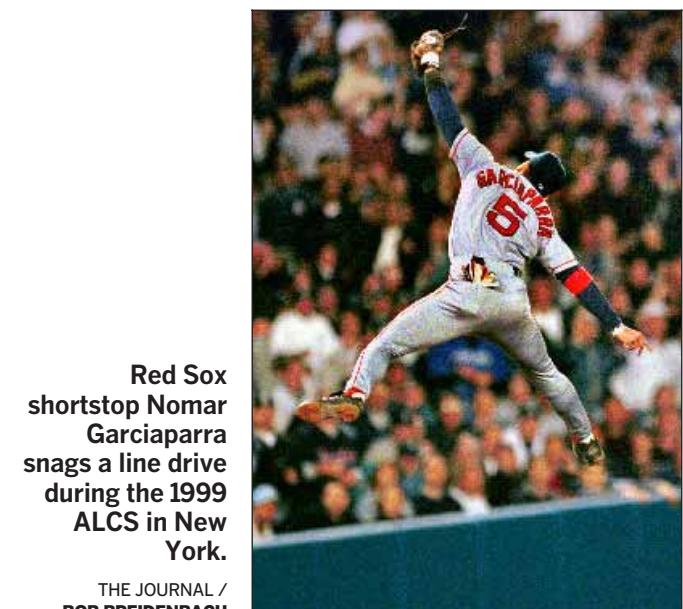
AP / CHARLES KRUPA

Blood came through Boston pitcher Curt Schilling's sock during Game Six of the ALCS in New York in 2004.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez gets a hug from teammate John Valentin after Martinez pitched a complete game against Roger Clemens at the Stadium in May 2000.



Red Sox shortstop Nomar Garciaparra snags a line drive during the 1999 ALCS in New York.

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Johnny Damon watches his second-inning grand slam during Game Seven of the ALCS against the Yankees in 2004. Boston came back from a 3-0 series deficit to beat New York.

## Triple-threat capability raises Ventrone's stock

Ray Ventrone, of the Patriots, has overcome the odds and become mighty valuable because of his solid play on offense, defense and special teams.

BY ROBERT LEE  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — Sometimes an NFL player is able to overcome the odds even when the deck is stacked against him.

Sometimes an NFL player must manufacture an opportunity even when there doesn't appear to be one.

Sometimes an NFL player must go above and beyond what is asked of him if he wants to achieve his dream — to make an NFL roster.

Patriots jack-of-all-trades Ray Ventrone knows that, and he put

in a lot of hard work in the off-season to try to overcome the odds.

He knows that he is not the most talented player in the NFL, but he works as hard as anyone, and that has gotten him noticed by the Patriots' coaching staff. The 5-foot-10, 200-pound workhorse, who spent most of his career on the Patriots' practice squad, has a good chance to make the opening-day 53-man roster.

He makes the hustle plays on special teams. He is a hard-hitting back in the secondary, and last season he did such a good job lining up and running routes on the Patriots' scout team to prepare the secondary for their upcoming games that he was asked by wide receivers coach Bill O'Brien if he wanted to try playing that position this year, as well.

SEE PATRIOTS, C3



AP / DUSAN VRANIC

Team USA's Mike Krzyzewski, center, wears his players' gold medals after the victory over Spain in the title game.

## Olympics brought out best in Coach K, players

Kudos to Coach K.

To paraphrase that old sports writer, Billy Shakespeare, I have come to praise Mike Krzyzewski, not to bury him.

JIM DONALDSON

That's a bit different from the tack I took earlier this year, after his Duke University Blue Devils, with a lineup loaded with McDonald's All-Americans, barely beat unheralded and largely unknown Belmont in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament, then lost in the second round to West Virginia, which had finished fifth in the Big East. That came on the heels (not, to Coach K's relief, Tar Heels) of first-round losses the year before in the ACC Tournament (to N.C. State) and the NCAA Tournament (to Virginia Commonwealth).

As if that weren't bad enough, Krzyzewski also had been coach of the star-studded U.S. team in the World Championships in '06, when his talent-laden aggregation of NBA stars and studs lost in the semifinals to Greece, 101-95, in a game in which it looked as if neither Coach K nor his players had ever before seen a pick-and-roll.

It didn't help Coach K's reputation, or the overhyped NBA's, when the Greeks were trounced in the finals by Spain, 70-47.

So there seemed reason, after that string of setbacks, to wonder if Coach K had lost it; if he'd lost the drive and the skills that for so many years made his Duke teams so formidable; if his reputation had come to exceed

SEE DONALDSON, C6