

How will the Red Sox fare in the first round of the playoffs?

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Projo Video

Rogers plays Bay View in girls volleyball. See footage from the match, and more video, at HSGameTime.com

Wild men

The Red Sox have qualified for the playoffs as the wild-card entry more than any team in history:

NO.	TEAMS
6	Red Sox
3	Yankees
2	Rockies, Dodgers, Astros, Marlins, Mets

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

SECTION B



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THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

Hall of Famer Carlton Fisk, center with white jersey, helps unveil the newest retired Boston Red Sox number — Johnny Pesky's No. 6.

NY 6-3, BOSTON 2-4

Van Every's hit in 10th gains split for the Sox

A long day at Fenway Park to end the regular season finishes on a high note as Boston turns its attention to the playoffs.

BY CAROLYN THORNTON
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — OK, now the Red Sox can get down to business.

Despite Mother Nature's best efforts to prolong the inevitable, Boston concluded its regular season yesterday with two games in which the outcomes were so meaningless that even the fact they were against the New York Yankees couldn't stir up quite the same fervor that the storied rivalry usually generates.

With their flight for Southern California already booked, the Red Sox, winners of the A.L. wild-card berth, salvaged a split with New York, dropping a 6-2 decision in the opener of the day-night doubleheader and then rebounding with a 4-3, 10-inning victory in the nightcap, played before two separate sell-out crowds at Fenway Park.

Even with nothing on the line and many of the stars from both teams sitting out, yesterday's contests weren't without their memorable — and even historic — moments, though.

There was the heartfelt retirement of Johnny Pesky's uniform No. 6 prior to the games.

"It was obvious how the Red Sox feel about him — the players, front office, ownership, fans," Sox manager Terry Francona said of Pesky, who turned 89 on Saturday and has served the Red Sox organization for nearly six decades. "I thought that was really neat. I wish it would've been dry, so he wouldn't have had to stand out there and get rained on, but it was a neat idea."

Then, after a one-hour rain delay, Yankees Mike Mussina achieved his long-awaited milestone, as the 39-year-old right-hander tossed six shutout innings, giving up three hits and two walks en route to recording the first 20-win season of his 18-year career.

Also recording his 270th overall victory in the process, Mussina moved into a tie with Burleigh Grimes for 32nd place on baseball's all-time wins list.

"That's amazing. We talked about Moose having a good year, and I think he exceeded everyone's expectations," New York manager Joe Girardi said of Mussina, the first Yankee to achieve the feat since Andy Pettitte

SEE RED SOX, B3

RED SOX vs. ANGELS

Wednesday at Anaheim, TBA
Friday at Anaheim, TBA
Sunday at Boston, TBA
xOct. 6 at Boston, TBA
xOct. 8 at Anaheim, TBA
Best-of-five series. x — if necessary. All games on TBS/TNT

DEAR JOHNNY

Pesky's No. 6 joins ranks of the revered

BY JOE McDONALD
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — Johnny Pesky stood on the warning track near the Red Sox dugout in the mist and fog yesterday afternoon at Fenway Park with tears in his eyes.

He was surrounded by the current Boston players, who all gave him hugs after a pregame ceremony in which the organization bestowed the ultimate Red Sox honor when they retired his jersey number.

Now his No. 6 will hang alongside Bobby Doerr's (No. 1), Joe Cronin's (No. 4), Carl Yastrzemski's (No. 8), Ted Williams' (No. 9) and Carlton Fisk's (No. 27) on the right-field façade, along with Jackie Robinson's No. 42, which was retired by Major League Baseball in 1997.

Pesky is very humble about his career with the Red Sox and says his No. 6 should not be retired because he didn't have a "Hall-of-Fame career."

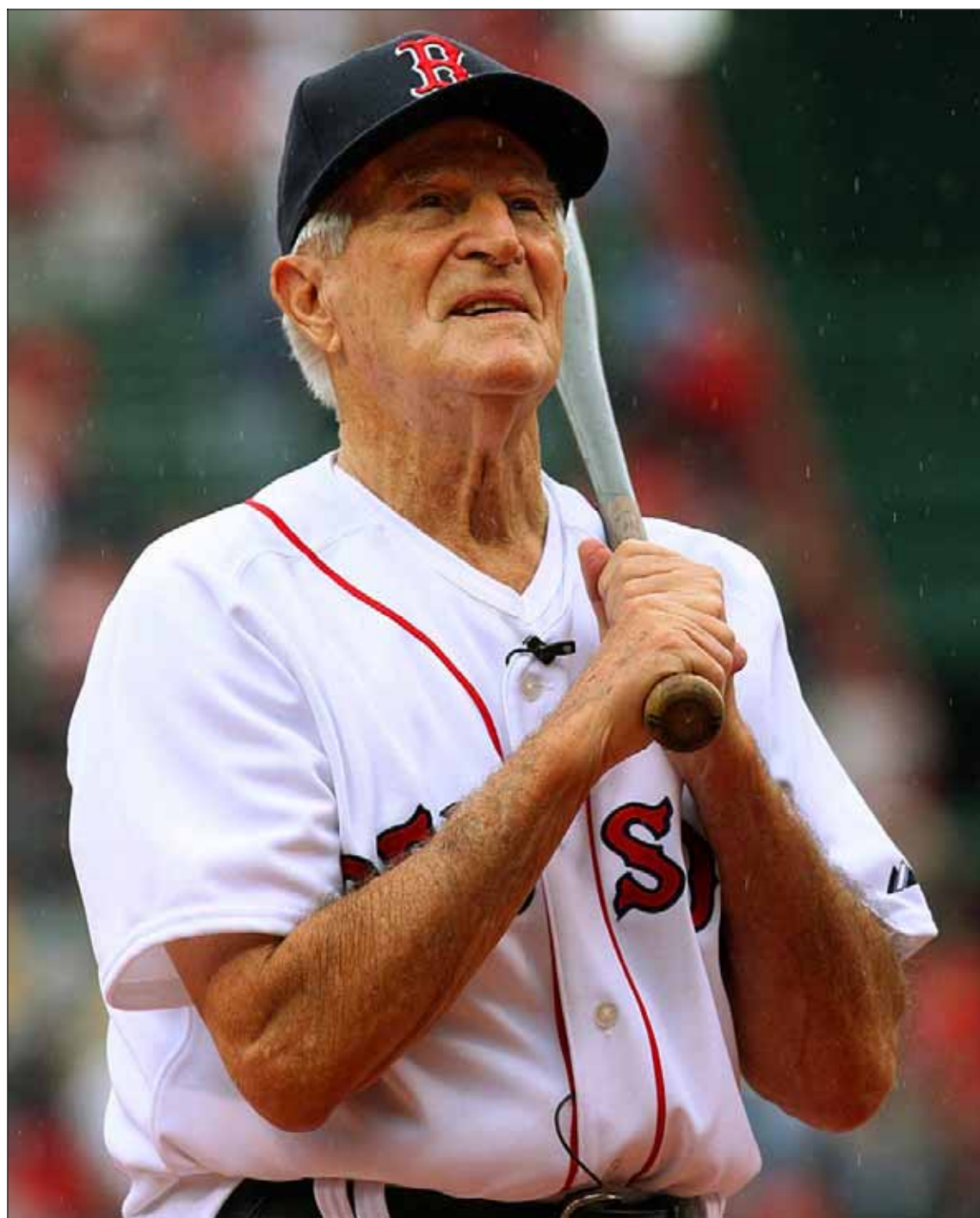
But it's not always about the numbers.

Pesky, 89, has done so many things for the Red Sox organization from charity and community work, to just being a genuine guy, Boston is blessed to have such a legend around the ballpark.

SEE PESKY, B4

Johnny Pesky holds his famous fungo bat while looking up into the crowd at yesterday's ceremony to retire his jersey number. Pesky has been with the Red Sox for more than a half century.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH



Some signs point to a sweep in Sox-Angels series, but who wins?

Sports writers, like lawyers, can argue both sides of a case.

They just don't get paid as much to do it.

JIM DONALDSON



Bearing in mind that you get what you pay for, here is an argument for why the Red Sox could sweep the Angels in the American League Division Series that opens Wednesday in Anaheim.

And also one for why the Angels could sweep the Red Sox.

First, there's the History Argument.

The Sox never lost to the Angels in the postseason. Never! Boston and Anaheim have met three times in the playoffs and the Red Sox have won every time.

The last time was just last year, when the Sox swept the Angels in the Division Series

by scores of 4-0 (getting a complete-game, four-hitter from Josh Beckett), 6-3, and 9-1.

The Hose also swept the Halos in the ALDS in '04. And if you notice a trend here between Boston's wins over Anaheim in the opening round and subsequent World Series victories, feel free to add that to reasons for Red Sox rooters to feel optimistic.

David "Big Papi" Ortiz pounded the ball in both of those series. In '04, he went 6-for-11, with a homer and four RBI. He was even better last year, going 5-for-7, with two homers and three RBI. The Angels were so afraid to pitch to Papi that they walked him six times.

It was David Henderson who was Boston's hero against the Angels in the A.L. Championship Series in 1986. With the Sox one strike away from elimination in Game

SEE DONALDSON, B4

ANOTHER SEPTEMBER SWOON



Mets teammate Ryan Church, left, and Daniel Murphy stand in the dugout in the eighth inning of a 4-2 loss to the Florida Marlins yesterday that eliminated New York from playoff contention in the final game at Shea Stadium. It is the second year in a row that the Mets have had a good lead in the standings, only to fade in the final month. Story, Page B2.

AP / JULIE JACOBSON