

Regular season ends in surprise

SOX continued from 7

parison to the legendary 1927 Yankees' Murders Row lineup. Right in the middle of the Cardinals lineup were three MVP candidates, Albert Pujols, Scott Rolen, and Jim Edmonds, who all had over 30 homers and 100 rbis. In the fall classic, these three were shut down by the Sox pitching staff. While Pujols batted over .400, he had no homers or rbis. Rolen and Edmonds, in the World Series, had one hit and one rbi combined. Numbers like that from the heart of your lineup will not get you wins.

So, now the curse of the Bambino is finally over. But man, can that guy hold a grudge or what? Since trading away George Herman Ruth in 1920,

the Red Sox until this season, were cursed with no title. To put into perspective how long the Red Sox faithful have waited for this title, here are some facts: In 1918, the last year the Sox were champions, the commander-in-chief of the United States was Woodrow Wilson. Although we don't know if women wanted Wilson as president because they couldn't vote the last time the Sox were crowned. Americans didn't have too much time for baseball the last time the Sox won the title because we were busy fighting World War I. Baseball was definitely the nation's pastime in 1918, partly because the NFL or NBA hadn't been created yet. Fans of the Red Sox couldn't watch the pregame on television because tel-

evision was still 20 years away from being invented. The fans could always mail other fans about the game. After all, in 1918, stamps cost just three cents. A famous politician from Massachusetts, John F. Kennedy probably didn't remember that last championship victory because he was in diapers.

So baseball closes another chapter and the players head home for a nice winter break. But February will be here in no time and players will be reporting to Florida and Arizona for spring training. Baseball fans should thank their lucky stars that they were able to witness history being made. As for the poor Cubs and White Sox, there's always next year. Just ask Boston how true that is.

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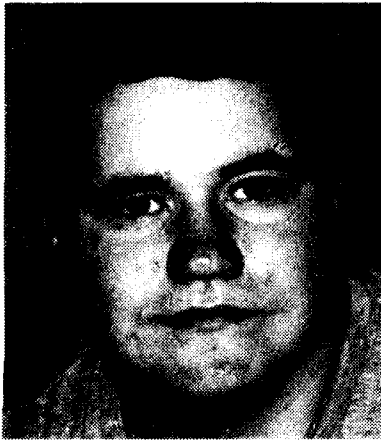
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Capital Times staff picks big winners in NFL

Herb Smith, Staff Reporter



Minnesota
Pittsburgh @ Cleveland
Pittsburgh
Philadelphia @ Dallas
Philadelphia

Week #11

Atlanta @
New York Giants

Giants

Detroit @ Minnesota

Minnesota

Washington @

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

New England @

Kansas City

New England

Week #10

Baltimore @
New York Jets

Baltimore

Minnesota @ Green Bay

Christian Torres, Staff Reporter



Week #10

Baltimore @
New York Jets

New York

Minnesota @ Green Bay

Green Bay
Pittsburgh @ Cleveland
Cleveland
Philadelphia @ Dallas
Philadelphia

Week #11

Atlanta @
New York Giants

Giants

Detroit @ Minnesota

Minnesota

Washington @

Philadelphia

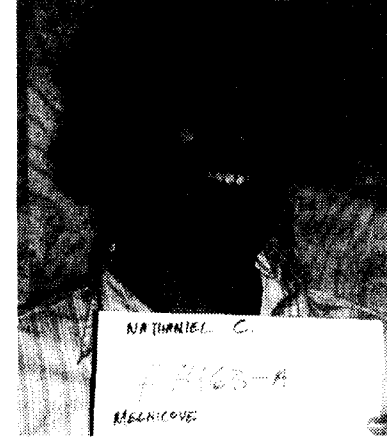
Philadelphia

New England @

Kansas City

Kansas City

Nat Melnicove, Staff Reporter



Week #10

Baltimore @
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Detroit @ Minnesota

Minnesota

Washington @

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

New England @

Kansas City

New England

Mirth of a Nation

By Bill Howe
Staff Reporter
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With blood shot eyes and "vurps" that taste of cheap champagne, I will attempt to relay to you how it feels to have my beloved Red Sox win their first World Series Championship in 86 years.

This is not an account coming from someone who just hitched his wagon to the Sox in the post-season. No, this is from someone who was born into it. Someone who realizes it was not all Bill Buckner's fault, but it was the relief pitcher that couldn't strike anybody out that put Buckner in that situation.

See, my dad was born in Sudbury, Mass., and my grandfather's house was a short walk through the woods to Babe Ruth's house. It is claimed in my family's lore that he and the Babe were known to have a scotch together once in awhile. Whatever the case, my dad loved to tell tall tales that his father had told him of some of Ruth's parties and other shenanigans.

When my dad was in grade school, he often played hooky with his dad to take the train into Boston to see the Sox at Fenway. "Now Spike, don't tell your mom. This is our secret." I'm sure she knew. My dad loved Ted Williams...Teddy Ballgame...and I grew to love him too just from my dad's accounts. "Ya' know he hit a homerun his last time at bat...Ya' know he was a fighter ace during the war...Ya' know he was the world's greatest fly fisherman!" Ya' know I cried when Teddy



Photo by Kelly Nagurny

Bill Howe celebrates after his beloved Red Sox win the World Series Championship

died.

In '75, we watched together as the "Big Red Machine" from Cincinnati broke our hearts. I was only 11 and had no concept of what was in store for me. To be a Red Sox fan was to become accustomed to disappointment. For a while during the eighties, it seemed we were always getting beat by the Oakland A's. "Eckersley used to pitch for the Sox ya' know!" my father would lament. But '86 seemed different. The Sox had "Oil Can" Boyd, Wade Boggs, Tony "Horse" and "Scoot." Surely we would beat the "lucky to be there" Mets! Billy "bleepin" Buckner! We were soooo close.

In the nineties, the Blue Jays and Yankees just wouldn't let us play. My dad would die from cancer at age 69, never to see his beloved Red Sox win it all.

My daughter came home from school a month ago and told me she picked the Red Sox to win the World Series in her social studies class and that the winners got a milkshake and a prize. I didn't know whether to be proud or fearful of the tradition that continues in our family. She's only ten and didn't watch any games with me, but she was aware of how close she was getting to that milkshake. Honey, here's to hoping there are many more milkshakes to come.

Sports in brief

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK - The NHL lockout forced the cancellation of this season's All-Star game, scheduled to be held in Atlanta in February.

The announcement that the mid-season showcase would not be held came on the 49th day of the lockout, imposed by commissioner Gary Bettman after the collective bargaining agreement expired on Sept. 15.

The NHL and the players association haven't met since Sept. 9 and have no plans to return to the bargaining table.

In a statement, the NHL said the earliest Atlanta can hold All-Star weekend is 2008 since the 2006 game has already been awarded to the Phoenix Coyotes and plans for the 2007 game are near completion.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)-Nashville Predators center Sergei Zholtok died in Belarus of an apparent heart ailment. He was 31.

Zholtok left the game between Riga 2000, the club he was playing for during the NHL lockout, and Dinamo Minsk about five minutes before it ended. He went back to the locker room where he collapsed and died, Riga 2000 president Viesturs Koziolles told The Associated Press in Riga, Latvia.

Paramedics at the arena tried to revive him but were unsuccessful.

BASEBALL

NEW YORK (AP)-Carl Pavano

became a free agent after meeting with Florida Marlins' management and telling the team he wanted to test the market.

A 28-year-old right-hander who went a career-best 18-8 with a 3.00 ERA this season, Pavano is likely to be among the most coveted free agents.

Other free-agent pitchers include Pedro Martinez, Brad Radke, Russ Ortiz, Eric Milton, Matt Morris, Derek Lowe and Kevin Millwood. Players can start negotiating money terms with all teams starting Nov. 12.

HOUSTON (AP)-Phil Garner will remain the manager of the Houston Astros. Garner told The Associated Press he was officially retained by the Astros, hired just two days after Tim Purpura replaced Gerry Hunsicker as the franchise's general manager.

Garner, 55, took over on an interim basis after Jimmy Williams was fired during the All-Star Break and guided the Astros within a victory of their first World Series berth.

NEW YORK (AP)-Willie Randolph was hired by the New York Mets to take over as manager.

A six-time All-Star who was a coach with the New York Yankees for the past 11 years, Randolph replaces Art Howe, fired at the end of the season.

Randolph met earlier in the day with new general manager Omar Minaya, who also had second interviews with the other finalists, Texas hitting coach Rudy Jaramillo and former Houston

and Anaheim manager Terry Collins.

BASKETBALL

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) -Despite being bothered by a strained left hamstring, Shaquille O'Neal was in the starting lineup for the Miami Heat in their opener against the New Jersey Nets. O'Neal sat out practice for four consecutive days after aggravating the injury, which has hampered him throughout the pre-season. He estimated himself to be about 70-75 percent of full strength.

O'Neal scored 16 points in just 21 minutes in Miami's 100-77 victory.

NEW YORK (AP)-Detroit forward Antonio McDyess was fined \$5,000 by the NBA, a day after being ejected for kicking a basketball into the stands during the Pistons' season-opening 87-79 win over Houston.

FOOTBALL

DAVIE, Fla. (AP)-Miami Dolphins linebacker Junior Seau will miss the rest of the season with a torn pectoral muscle that will require surgery. The Dolphins placed him on injured reserve. Eddie Moore, a second-round draft pick in 2003, will replace Seau and make his first NFL start Sunday against Arizona.

Seau, 35, planned to undergo the first major operation of his career Thursday in his hometown of San Diego. He has missed only nine games in his career.