

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2007



RED SOX VS. INDIANS ■ ALCS

GAME 1: FRIDAY, 7:10 P.M. ■ FENWAY PARK ■ FOX



Family ties



Red Sox manager Terry Francona, who spent a year in the Indians' front office, said he sent a congratulatory text message to Indians GM Mark Shapiro as soon as Cleveland eliminated the Yankees.

Photos by CHARLES KRUPA/The Associated Press

Red Sox, Indians have shared plenty of personnel

Red Sox vs. Indians

Friday
Cleveland (Sabathia 19-7) at Boston (Beckett 20-7), 7:10

Saturday
Cleveland (Carmona 19-8) at Boston (Schilling 9-8), 8:21

Monday
Boston (Matsuzaka 15-12) at Cleveland (Westbrook 6-9), 7:10

Tuesday, Oct. 16
Boston at Cleveland, 8:21

x-Thursday, Oct. 18
Boston at Cleveland, 8:21

x-Saturday, Oct. 20
Cleveland at Boston, TBD, if necessary

x-Sunday, Oct. 21
Cleveland at Boston, TBD

x-if necessary

More coverage inside

- The Red Sox will be a well-rested team when the ALCS starts. **C4**
- The Indians have had plenty of Erie (as in Lake) things happen this season. **C5**
- A primer course on the Indians. **C5**
- A look at how this year's Sox-Indians matchups. **C5**

By RYAN TREPANIER
Standard-Times correspondent

BOSTON — Before the Indians even had time to break out the champagne, Red Sox manager Terry Francona sent his congratulations to Cleveland's general manager.

"I texted Mark (Shapiro on Monday) night right when they won," Francona said. "I think I got a text back about five minutes later. I was really happy for them. Believe me when I say this, I don't want

them to beat us. I think that's stating the obvious, but there's some people over there who I'm really close to."

After being fired as manager of the Phillies following the 2000 season, Francona spent 2001 with the Indians as then general manager John Hart's special assistant to baseball operations. He was with the club for just a season before returning to the dugout as a bench coach with the Rangers, but struck up friendships with Shapiro and

Chris Antonetti, now the Indians' vice president of player operations.

"When you spoke to Chris, it was very clear that he was smarter than you," Francona said, "but he never made you feel like it. They're very intelligent people who place a high priority on people."

Francona's only season with the Indians was Hart's last as G.M. He resigned after the season and like Francona headed off to Texas. See **PERSONNEL C5**

Sox move Schilling up to Game 2

By JIMMY GOLEN
Associated Press writer

BOSTON — Tim Wakefield tested his balky back from the Fenway mound on Tuesday to see if he'll be able to start in Game 4 of the AL championship series.

Curt Schilling showed everything he needed to show on Sunday.

Two days after helping the Red Sox finish off the Los Angeles Angels in the first round, Schilling was tabbed to start the second game of the best-of-seven series against Cleveland's Fausto Carmona.

Josh Beckett will start the



Tim Wakefield throws during Tuesday's practice at Fenway Park. His status for the ALCS remains up in the air.

opener on Friday night against C.C. Sabathia. Daisuke Matsuzaka, who pitched the second game in

the first round, will start Game 3 against Jake Westbrook.

"We just feel like this is our best way to go forward," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said.

Schilling pitched seven innings of shutout ball on Sunday to lead Boston to a 9-1 victory over the Angels and complete the three-game sweep. With four days off before the start of the second round — and a couple of days off in the middle of it, too — the Red Sox have the luxury of setting up their rotation however they want.

Beckett, who pitched his second consecutive playoff shutout in Game 1 against the Angels, was See **ROTATION C5**

Torre remains the Yankees' best choice

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press writer

NEWYORK — The rat-a-tat-tat of drills echoed from the new ballpark being built across the street from Yankee Stadium, site of so many triumphs. There was no evidence — not just yet — that they were digging a grave for the current occupant of the manager's chair.

Listening to George Steinbrenner's threat last weekend, Joe Torre had committed his seventh deadly sin in a row, failing yet again to fulfill the

ANALYSIS

owner's insatiable appetite for championship No. 27.

In the bowels of the old stadium, scheduled for extinction a year hence, the detritus of another season gone sour was being cleared Tuesday, a day after Torre's 12th season ended in a first-round loss to Cleveland. The unwanted memory, however, could not be purged.

So now the clock ticks on Torre, a

PLENTY OF SUPPORT

As the clock ticks on the Joe Torre Watch, players, coaches, politicians say they want him back. **Page C4**

genius when he led the pinstripes to four World Series titles in his first five seasons, but a less-sacred sorcerer these days.

Last year, Steinbrenner left open the possibility of an execution for 2½ days following the final out

against Detroit before issuing a stay. He may not be able to restrain his bloodlust this year.

That said, Steinbrenner would be a fool to let Torre go.

A long time ago, Steinbrenner said the biggest mistake he ever made was to let Reggie Jackson depart for the golden sunshine of the California Angels. This would top that faux pas.

The guess here is if Torre departs, other key components of the Yankees leave, too.

See **BLUM C4**

BISHOP STANG 8,
BISHOP CONNOLLY/WESTPORT 0

Co-op still a work in progress

Westport girls give Connolly a boost, but not enough to match EAC foes like Stang

By ED COLLINS
Standard-Times staff writer

DARTMOUTH — Somewhere out there, a job is going unfilled because Westport's Kristen Vincelletto is playing soccer for Bishop Connolly.

Westport and Connolly are fielding a co-op team for the first time and five players from Westport are on the Cougars' varsity roster.

"If not for soccer, I'd probably be working, so I'm happy to be getting a chance to play," said Vincelletto, a senior midfielder. "I was on the boys team at Westport last season, but this is better because it feels more comfortable. It's been fun and the kids from Connolly have been great teammates."

The Cougars (2-7-1, 0-5-0 Eastern Athletic Conference) dropped an 8-0 decision at league-rival Bishop Stang on Tuesday, but first-year coach Jill Apicerno said everyone on the team has been playing with a lot of energy.

"It's my first year coaching, so this is all pretty new to me, but we have kids who like to play the game," said Apicerno. "It's been a learning process for everyone, but we've won a couple of games and the kids are still getting to know each other."

The other Westport players on the team are senior midfielder Dalila Oliveira, sophomore midfielder Nellie Fors, sophomore forward Kayla Vincelletto, Kristen's sister, and freshman midfielder Olivia Mauk.

"The kids from Westport have been helping us tremendously this season," said Apicerno. "They've given us some depth and they've brought some good speed to the team. They like to play the game and it's been nice working with them."

Westport and Connolly have also gone co-op in field hockey, with Connolly players coming to Westport, and football, with Westport players going to Connolly.

The Cougars have wins over Diman Voke and Sturgis Charter School, but they were

See **CO-OP C3**



MIKE VALERI/The Standard-Times

Kristen Vincelletto, going against Bishop Stang's Molly Wakefield, right, is one of five Westport High girls playing varsity soccer for Bishop Connolly in the first year of a co-op program.



DON HEUPEL/The Associated Press

Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo was intercepted five times and lost a fumble in Monday night's thriller against the Bills, but led Dallas to two scores in the final minute to get the win.

Boy, oh 'Boys: Pats follow dramatic win

Dallas takes deep breath before turning attention to battle of unbeatens

By JAIME ARON
Associated Press writer

IRVING, Texas — Wade Phillips already thought the Dallas Cowboys had the kind of players that supported each other in bad times as well as the good ones they enjoyed the first month of the season. Now he has proof.

His Cowboys didn't crack

Monday night, despite plenty of forehead-slapping moments — from Tony Romo throwing five interceptions to Romo losing a fumble, from Terrell Owens dropping a tying 2-point conversion pass to Owens dropping a long pass that might've set up a short field goal for the win, from the special teams allowing a kickoff return for a touchdown to blazing-but-injured cornerback Terence Newman getting caught from behind on an interception return.

They hung close enough to

make a last-minute push, then had to keep hanging on when Nick Folk's 53-yard field goal to win it was called off because the Buffalo Bills sneaked in a timeout just before the snap.

Forced to do it again, the rookie did, giving Dallas a stunning 25-24 victory and a 5-0 record for the first time since 1983, setting up a rare matchup of 5-0 teams when the New England Patriots come calling on Sunday.

Perhaps just as importantly, the whole experience proved to

be a bonding moment, the kind of plucky comeback that makes players, coaches and fans think this team might have more magical moments in store.

"Our guys never gave up," Phillips said Tuesday afternoon, looking relaxed despite the team plane arriving at 4 a.m. and him being back at work around four hours later. "They believed they could win and went out and did it. Stats and all that mean certain things, but really it's the heart-

See **COWBOYS C6**