

Unforgettable

By Luis Montealegre

It was the legendary run of '04! I will always remember this run and carry it to my grave. I was a die-hard fan of the Boston Red Sox and I was going berserk for my team that just made the playoffs as a Wild Card. We were facing the Anaheim Angels in the best-of-5-game American League Division Series and in the first two games we'd blown them out, 9-3 and 8-3. The third game arrived and Boston took an early lead scoring 2 in the bottom of the third inning. Yet Anaheim bounced back getting a home run to make the score 2-1 in the middle of the fourth inning. Boston then scored 4 unanswered runs but Anaheim went absolutely crazy scoring a ridiculous five runs in the seventh inning. We were tied 6 to 6. The eighth inning came and went along with the ninth inning. The bottom of the tenth approached, Boston's chance to sweep the Angles. Damon was up (Centerfielder) and hit a single. Bellhorn was next up and grounded into a force out - one out, a man on first. Manny Ramirez (Leftfielder and best player) struck out looking to leave Big Papi, David Ortiz- Designated Hitter, up last; he'd been the best clutch baseball player recently. The pitcher delivered, "BAM!"

"HE DID IT AGAIN, BIG PAPI COMES THROUGH FOR THE SWEEP!!!" the announcer yelled over the intercom.

The Red Sox swept the Angels and were facing their rivals, the New York Yankees. The rivalry between these two teams has run since the beginning of the 1900's. The best-of-seven-game series between these two would go down in history. New York took a quick three to zero lead in the series—no team has ever come back from a three-zero deficit. All the odds were against my Boston Red Sox, yet I was confident they would come back. The next day at the school lunch table I started chanting, "Boston... Boston... BOSTON!" I banged the lunch room tables, everyone joined in with me, "Let's go Red Sox!" We created a total disaster in the eyes of the lunch ladies and an epic moment in the eyes of the students. Eight teachers, the vice principal, and the principal all had to come into the lunch room to quiet us but we kept on going, "LETS GO RED SOX, LETS GO!" We kept the spirit in the air and the Red Sox bounced back winning the fourth game in a 12th inning walk off by Big Papi, once again. The fifth game appeared and Boston won in the 14th inning off a Big Papi single and Damon scoring on the play. Game 6 occurred with the Red Sox winning again. Game 7 was officially forced! Streets in Boston were closed, jobs were closed, and everyone was partying and celebrating the miraculous comeback.

Game 7 finally occurred and Boston started off strong with a two to zero lead at the end of the first inning. In the top of the second inning Damon hit a Grand Slam! Boston took a six to zero lead heading into the third! New York then scored a run, which only got topped by the Red Sox scoring two more in the next inning. They were creating the greatest comeback ever to take place and could begin to taste it. New York scored two runs in the seventh inning, but Boston got two more, and it came to the bottom of the ninth inning, Boston up ten to three. Matsui hit a single, but Williams and Posado both got out. Two outs with Sierra up. Ball One, Embree (Boston Pitcher) wound up and released..... Sierra hit it to the second baseman... "OUT!!!!!" The umpire screeched.

Red Sox ended up in the World Series against the St. Louis Cardinals trying to snap their eighty-six year World Series drought. They swept the Cardinals and won the World Series. I kept a journal during this run and wrote every detail about this "miracle." 2004: Miracle year- Unforgettable!