

= 2004 World Series =

The 2004 World Series , the 100th World Series , featured the American League (AL) champions Boston Red Sox against the National League (NL) champions St. Louis Cardinals . The Red Sox defeated the Cardinals by four games to none in the best @-@ of @-@ seven series , played at Fenway Park and Busch Memorial Stadium . The series was played from October 23 ? 27 , 2004 , broadcast on Fox , and watched by an average of just under 25 @.@ 5 million viewers .

The Cardinals earned their berth into the playoffs by winning the National League Central , and had the best win ? loss record in the National League . The Red Sox won the American League wild card to earn theirs . The Cardinals reached the World Series by defeating the Los Angeles Dodgers in the best @-@ of @-@ five National League Division Series and the Houston Astros in the best @-@ of @-@ seven Championship Series (NLCS) . The Red Sox defeated the Anaheim Angels in the American League Division Series . After being down three games to none to the New York Yankees , they came back to win the 2004 American League Championship Series (ALCS) and advanced to their first World Series since 1986 . The Cardinals made their first appearance in the World Series since 1987 . The Red Sox won the World Series for the first time since 1918 , which ended the " Curse of the Bambino " , a curse that was supposed to have been inflicted on the team when Babe Ruth was sold to the Yankees in 1919 . With the New England Patriots winning Super Bowl XXXVIII , the World Series made Boston the first city to have Super Bowl and World Series championship teams in the same year (2004) since Pittsburgh in 1979 .

Mark Bellhorn helped the Red Sox win Game 1 with a home run , while starter Curt Schilling led the team to a Game two victory by pitching six innings and allowing just one run . The Red Sox won the first two games despite committing four errors in each . The Red Sox won Game three , aided by seven shutout innings by Pedro Martínez . A home run by Johnny Damon in the first inning helped to win Game four for the Red Sox to secure the series . The Cardinals did not lead in any of the games in the series . Manny Ramírez was named the series ' Most Valuable Player (MVP) . When each team next played in a World Series , both won their respective series ? the Cardinals in 2006 (two years later) and the Red Sox in 2007 . When the Cardinals won , Tony La Russa joined Sparky Anderson as the only men to have managed World Series championship teams in both leagues , a feat he failed to achieve in 2004 . The Red Sox and Cardinals faced each other again in the 2013 World Series , which the Red Sox also won .

= = Route to the series = =

= = = Red Sox = = =

The Red Sox had lost in the previous season 's American League Championship Series against the New York Yankees . The loss was mainly blamed on the decision by then @-@ manager Grady Little to keep starting pitcher Pedro Martínez in the game in the 8th inning of Game 7 , and Little was fired two weeks later .

During the off @-@ season , the Red Sox hired Terry Francona as their new manager . They also signed Keith Foulke as their closer and traded for Curt Schilling as a starting pitcher . The Red Sox played two particularly notable games against the Yankees during the regular season . A game on July 1 , in which they came back from a 3 @-@ run deficit to force extra innings , is best remembered for an incident in the 12th inning , when Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter made a catch on the run before hurling himself head @-@ first into the stands . The Yankees won the game in the next inning to take an 8 @-@ game lead in the American League East . In the 3rd inning of a game on July 24 , Red Sox pitcher Bronson Arroyo hit Yankees batter Alex Rodriguez with one of his pitches . As Rodriguez walked towards first base , he began shouting profanities at Arroyo . Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek positioned himself between the two players . After a brief argument , Varitek pushed his glove into Rodriguez ' face , causing a bench @-@ clearing brawl . The Red Sox eventually won the game thanks to a home run by Bill Mueller in the 9th inning . On July 31 , the

Red Sox traded shortstop Nomar Garciaparra to the Chicago Cubs after he had spent eight years with the team . They acquired shortstop Orlando Cabrera and first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz in this trade . They won the wild card to earn a place in the post @-@ season for the second year in a row .

In the divisional round of the playoffs , the Red Sox faced the Anaheim Angels in a best @-@ of @-@ five series . They won Game 1 largely thanks to a 7 @-@ run 4th inning , and went on to sweep the series . In the 7th inning of Game 3 , with the Red Sox leading by 4 , Vladimir Guerrero tied the game for the Angels with a grand slam . However , David Ortiz won the series with a walk @-@ off home run in the 10th . In the American League Championship Series , the Red Sox lost the first three games against the New York Yankees and were trailing in Game 4 when they began the 9th inning . Kevin Millar was walked by Yankees closer Mariano Rivera . Dave Roberts then came into the game to pinch run for Millar and stole second base . Mueller then singled to enable him to tie the game . Another walk @-@ off home run by Ortiz won the game for the Red Sox in the 12th inning . Ortiz ' single in the 14th inning of Game 5 scored the winning run for the Red Sox , in what was the longest post @-@ season game in baseball history . Despite having a dislocated ankle tendon , Schilling started Game 6 for the Red Sox . He pitched for seven innings , and allowed just one run , during which time his sock became soaked in blood . In the eighth inning , Yankees third baseman Rodriguez slapped a ball out of pitcher Arroyo 's hand , allowing the Yankees to score a run . However , after a discussion the umpires called Rodriguez out for interference and canceled the run . Fans then threw debris onto the field in protest and the game was stopped for ten minutes . The Red Sox won the game and became the first baseball team to ever force a Game 7 after having been down 3 games to none . A 10 ? 3 win in Game 7 brought the Red Sox to the World Series for the first time in 18 years .

= = = Cardinals = = =

Having failed to make the playoffs the season before , and with their division rivals (the Chicago Cubs and Houston Astros) expected to be strong , the Cardinals were generally expected to finish 3rd in the National League Central . However , strong offensive seasons from Albert Pujols , Scott Rolen , and Jim Edmonds ? during which they each hit more than 30 home runs and 100 runs batted in (RBI) ? helped them to lead the league in runs scored . They also allowed the least runs of any team in the league . Four of their starters recorded at least 15 wins and closer Jason Isringhausen recorded a league @-@ best 47 saves . They added outfielder Larry Walker in August and finished the regular season with the best win ? loss record in the league .

The Cardinals faced the Los Angeles Dodgers in the divisional round of the playoffs . Five home runs in Game 1 and no runs allowed by the bullpen in Game 2 helped the Cardinals to win the first two games . A complete game by Dodgers pitcher José Lima enabled the Dodgers to force a Game 4 , during which a home run by Pujols won the series for the Cardinals . In the National League Championship Series , the Cardinals faced the Astros and won the first two games in St. Louis . However , the Astros tied the series in the next two games in Houston , before a combined one @-@ hitter by Astros pitchers Brandon Backe and Brad Lidge gave them the series lead . An RBI single by Jeff Bagwell in the 9th inning of Game 6 tied the game and forced extra innings . In the 12th , Edmonds won the game for the Cardinals with a walk @-@ off home run . Trailing in the sixth inning of Game 7 , a game @-@ tying RBI double by Albert Pujols followed by a Scott Rolen two @-@ run home run and then an RBI single by Larry Walker in the 8th inning helped the Cardinals to a 5 ? 2 win and earn their first World Series berth in 17 years .

By reaching the World Series with the Cardinals , Tony La Russa became the sixth manager to win pennants in both leagues . This was after La Russa had managed the Oakland Athletics to three straight pennants between 1988 and 1990 and winning the 1989 World Series . He would attempt to join Sparky Anderson as the only men to have managed teams to World Series championships in both leagues . He wore # 10 in tribute to Anderson (who wore 10 while manager of the Cincinnati Reds) and to indicate he was trying to win the team 's 10th championship .

= = Series build up = =

The series was heavily discussed and analyzed by the American media prior to it beginning . Star @-@ News compared the Red Sox and Cardinals position by position and concluded that the Cardinals were stronger in eight positions , the Red Sox in four and the teams were even in one . They predicted that the Cardinals would win the series in seven games . Andrew Haskett of E @-@ Sports.com gave high praise to the two teams starting pitchers , but also said that the Cardinals " took a serious blow " when Chris Carpenter was forced out of the series due to an injury to his arm . He also pointed out the ability of both teams to hit home runs , especially in the case of the Red Sox 's David Ortiz and the Cardinals ' Albert Pujols , Scott Rolen and Jim Edmonds . While he praised the Red Sox defense , he called the Cardinals " one of the best defensive teams to ever walk onto a baseball field . " Ultimately he concluded that the series would be close and that the Red Sox would win it .

John Donovan of Sports Illustrated praised both teams for how unexpected their reaching the World Series was , saying that they were " not supposed to be here . " He also called the series a " blast from the past " because both teams were very old franchises and had twice previously met in the World Series . In a breakdown of how the two teams matched up , he concluded that the edge was with the Red Sox in pitching and the Cardinals in defense and batting . Ultimately he concluded that Schilling and Martinez would be the " key to [the] Series " and that the Red Sox would win in six games . Jim Molony of MLB.com , said he expected the series to play out very differently from the last time the two teams met in the World Series in 1967 . This was because both team offenses had been some of the best in the league during the season , while pitching had been very dominant in 1967 .

Dan Shaughnessy of The Boston Globe said that " Bally 's in Las Vegas set the Red Sox as 8 ? 5 favorites to win the Series " and that there was " some sentiment in St. Louis that the NL champions have been disrespected . " but also that Red Sox General Manager Theo Epstein " Did not want to dis [respect] the Cardinals . " Shaughnessy also quoted Schilling as having said : " There 's a lot of good players in that [visitors] clubhouse over there . This isn 't the time for us to be thinking about history . If we get three wins and 26 outs into the fourth win , I 'm pretty sure it will hit us . " Before the series began , Shaughnessy wrote a piece saying that although the Red Sox had beaten the Yankees , the series needed to be won , as it was the only way the Curse of the Bambino , which he had publicized based on the book of the same title in 1990 , would end , and demeaning chants of " 1918 ! " would no longer echo at Yankee Stadium . During the series , he wrote a piece about how much people in New England were thinking about loved ones who had spent their entire lives rooting for the Red Sox , hoping that one day , they would see their Red Sox win a World Series .

Both teams had lost in their previous World Series appearances in seven games . The Red Sox lost to the New York Mets in 1986 , while the Cardinals lost in 1987 to the Minnesota Twins . The Cardinals and Red Sox had not won the World Series since 1982 and 1918 respectively . When the two teams had previously played each other in the 1946 and 1967 World Series , the Cardinals won both series in seven games . Having won the All @-@ Star Game , the AL had been awarded home @-@ field advantage , which meant the Red Sox had the advantage at Fenway Park in four of the seven games in the series .

= = Series = =

= = = Game 1 = = =

Saturday , October 23 , 2004 ? 8 : 05 pm (ET) at Fenway Park in Boston , Massachusetts

Before Game 1 , local band Dropkick Murphys performed " Tessie " , and a moment of silence was observed to remember local student Victoria Snelgrove , who had been accidentally killed by police two days earlier as Sox fans had celebrated winning the American League pennant . Steven Tyler , the lead singer of Aerosmith , another local band , performed " The Star @-@ Spangled Banner "

and Red Sox legend Carl Yastrzemski threw the ceremonial first pitch .

Tim Wakefield made his first start of the 2004 postseason for the Red Sox , becoming the first knuckleball pitcher to make a World Series start since 1948 , while Woody Williams , who had won both his previous two starts in the post @-@ season , was the Cardinals ' starting pitcher . In the bottom of the first inning , Williams gave up a lead @-@ off double to Johnny Damon , and then hit Orlando Cabrera in the shoulder with one of his pitches . After Manny Ramírez flied out , Ortiz hit a three @-@ run home run in his first ever World Series at bat . Kevin Millar then scored by virtue of a single by Bill Mueller to put the Red Sox up 4 ? 0 .

The Cardinals scored one run in both the second and third innings on a sacrifice fly by Mike Matheny to score Jim Edmonds and a home run to right field by Walker , respectively . However , in the bottom of the third , the Red Sox scored three runs after seven consecutive batters reached base , giving them a five @-@ run lead . Dan Haren came in from the Cardinals ' bullpen to replace Williams during the inning .

In the top of the fourth inning , Bronson Arroyo was brought in to replace Wakefield after he had walked four batters . Those walks , combined with a throwing error by Millar and a passed ball by Doug Mirabelli , allowed the Cardinals to reduce the lead to two runs . In the sixth inning , So Taguchi reached first on an infield hit and was allowed to advance to second when Arroyo threw the ball into the stands . Doubles by Édgar Rentería and Walker tied the game at seven . In the bottom of the seventh inning , Ramírez singled with two men on base , and a poor throw by Edmonds allowed Bellhorn to score . Ortiz then hit a line drive that appeared to skip off the lip of the infield and hit Cardinals ' second baseman Tony Womack with " considerable force . " Womack immediately grabbed his clavicle as a second Red Sox run scored . He was attended to once play had ended and replaced by Marlon Anderson . A precautionary X @-@ ray revealed that there was no damage .

In the top of the eighth inning , with one out and two men on base , Red Sox closer Foulke came in to pitch . Édgar Rentería singled towards Ramírez in left field , who unintentionally kicked the ball away , allowing Jason Marquis to score . Walker also hit the ball towards Ramírez in the next at bat . Ramírez slid in an attempt to try to catch the ball , but tripped and deflected the ball for his second error in two plays , and the fourth Red Sox error in the game . Roger Cedeño scored on the play to tie the game at nine . In the bottom of the eighth inning however , Jason Varitek reached on an error , and Bellhorn then hit a home run off the right field foul pole , also known as Pesky 's Pole , for his third home run in as many games to give the Red Sox a two @-@ run lead . In the ninth inning , Foulke struck out Cedeño to win the game for the Red Sox 11 ? 9 .

With a total of 20 runs , it was the highest scoring opening game of a World Series ever . With four RBI , Ortiz also tied a franchise record for RBI in a World Series game .

== = Game 2 == =

Sunday , October 24 , 2004 ? 8 : 10 pm (ET) at Fenway Park in Boston , Massachusetts

Boston native James Taylor performed " The Star @-@ Spangled Banner " before Game 2 and singer Donna Summer , also a Boston native , performed " God Bless America " during the seventh @-@ inning stretch . The ceremonial first pitch was thrown by the surviving three members of the famous Red Sox quartet that had faced the Cardinals in 1946 : Bobby Doerr , Dom DiMaggio and Johnny Pesky (Ted Williams had passed away two years earlier .)

Despite having a torn tendon in his right ankle , similar to Game 6 of the ALCS against the Yankees , Schilling started Game 2 for the Red Sox . Schilling had four stitches in the ankle the day before , causing him " considerable discomfort . " He was not sure on the morning of Game 2 if he would be able to play , but after one of the stitches was removed , he was treated with antibiotics and was able to pitch . Morris started for the Cardinals on three days rest (one day less than is orthodox rest for a starting pitcher) .

In the first inning , Albert Pujols doubled with two out , and Scott Rolen hit a line drive towards Mueller , who caught it to end the inning . Morris walked Ramírez and Ortiz in the bottom of the inning . Varitek then tripled to center field to give the Red Sox a 2 ? 0 lead .

In the fourth inning , Pujols doubled again and was able to score on an error by Mueller . The Red Sox also scored in the bottom of the inning when Bellhorn doubled to center with two runners on base , to give them a three @-@ run lead . Cal Eldred came in to relieve Morris in the fifth inning , after he had walked the leadoff hitter , having already given up four runs in the previous four innings . Mueller committed his World Series record @-@ tying third error of the game , in the sixth inning ; however , the Cardinals failed to capitalize . In the bottom of the inning , Trot Nixon led off with a single to center , and two more singles by Johnny Damon and Orlando Cabrera enabled two more runs to score to make it 6 ? 1 .

After six innings of allowing no earned runs ? which gave him a total of 13 innings against the Yankees and Cardinals with only one earned run allowed on an bleeding ankle tendon with a torn tendon ? Schilling made way for Alan Embree , who pitched a scoreless seventh . Mike Timlin replaced Embree in the eighth , in which a sacrifice fly by Scott Rolen reduced the Red Sox lead to four . Keith Foulke then came in to strike out Jim Edmonds to end the inning and also pitched the ninth to end the game . For the second game in a row , the Red Sox won despite committing four fielding errors .

With the win , Schilling became only the fifth pitcher to ever win a World Series game with a team from both leagues , having previously done it with National League teams , the Philadelphia Phillies in 1993 , and the Arizona Diamondbacks in 2001 . He later donated the bloody sock he wore during the game to the Baseball Hall of Fame museum . Much of the blame for the Cardinals losses in the first two games was directed at the fact that Rolen , Edmonds and Reggie Sanders , three of the Cardinals ' best batters , had combined for one hit in 22 at @-@ bats .

== = Game 3 == =

Tuesday , October 26 , 2004 ? 8 : 30 pm (ET) at Busch Stadium (II) in St. Louis , Missouri

Seattle Mariners designated hitter Edgar Martínez was presented with the 2004 Roberto Clemente Award before Game 3 , having announced his retirement one month before . The ceremonial first pitch was thrown by arguably the Cardinals ' best @-@ ever position player , Stan Musial , and caught by arguably their best @-@ ever pitcher , Bob Gibson . " The Star @-@ Spangled Banner " and " God Bless America " were sung by country music singer Martina McBride and singer ? songwriter Amy Grant respectively . During the game , a sign for the fast @-@ food restaurant Taco Bell that measured 12 by 12 feet (3 @.@ 7 m × 3 @.@ 7 m) and read " Free Taco Here " , was hung approximately 410 feet (120 m) from home plate , over the left @-@ center field bullpen . Taco Bell promised that , if the sign was hit by a home run ball , they would give a free " Crunchy Beef Taco " to everyone in the United States .

Once again , the Red Sox took the lead in the first inning when Ramírez hit a home run off former Red Sox pitcher Jeff Suppan . Martínez was the starting pitcher for the Red Sox , and in the bottom of the first inning , he allowed the Cardinals to load the bases with one out . Edmonds then hit a fly ball towards Ramírez in left field , who caught it on the run and threw to catcher Jason Varitek at home plate . Varitek tagged out Walker , who was attempting to score from third , ending the inning .

In the bottom of the third inning , the Cardinals had two runners on base with no one out . Walker hit a ground ball towards first base , and Cardinals third base coach José Oquendo signalled to Suppan on third to run to home plate . However , halfway towards home , Suppan " suddenly stopped . " Édgar Rentería , who had been running from second base towards third , was forced to return to second when he saw Suppan had stopped . After forcing out Walker at first base , David Ortiz began moving toward Suppan , who had turned back toward third , Ortiz threw to third baseman Mueller , who tagged Suppan out . After the next batter Albert Pujols , was thrown out by Mueller , the inning ended .

Trot Nixon extended the Red Sox lead to two in the top of the fourth , hitting a single to right field that scored Mueller , who had started the rally with a two @-@ out double to left @-@ center . Johnny Damon then led off the Red Sox 's fifth inning with a double to right . Singles by Orlando Cabrera and Ramírez , to right and left respectively , scored Damon to make it 3 ? 0 . With two out ,

Mueller singled along the first base line , enabling Cabrera to score the Red Sox 's fourth run . Suppan was replaced by Al Reyes , which meant none of the Cardinals three starting pitchers had finished five innings during the series .

Mike Timlin relieved Martinez in the bottom of the eighth inning . He finished with six strikeouts , three hits allowed and retired the last 14 batters he faced . The Cardinals avoided a shutout when Walker hit a home run to center field off Foulke in the ninth inning , but Foulke retired the other three batters he faced in the inning to secure the win for the Red Sox 4 ? 1 .

On the same day the Red Sox won Game 3 , The Boston Globe ran a piece Dan Shaughnessy wrote that as this win brought the Red Sox on the verge of winning a World Series , how many people in New England were thinking about loved ones who had spent their entire lives rooting for the Red Sox and hoping that one day , they would see the Red Sox win a World Series .

= = = Game 4 = = =

Wednesday , October 27 , 2004 ? 8 : 25 pm (ET) at Busch Stadium (II) in St. Louis , Missouri

Before the game , country music singer Gretchen Wilson , a life @-@ long Cardinals fan , performed " The Star @-@ Spangled Banner . " Barry Bonds and Manny Ramírez received the Hank Aaron Award for the National and American Leagues , respectively . Former Cardinals players Red Schoendienst and Lou Brock threw out ceremonial first pitches along with Rashima Manning , from the Herbert Hoover Boys & Girls Clubs of America . A lunar eclipse was visible during the game ? the first lunar eclipse to take place during a World Series game . The game was also played on the eighteenth anniversary of Game 7 of the 1986 World Series , which the Red Sox had lost at Shea Stadium to the New York Mets despite holding a lead .

Damon hit a home run to right field in the first at @-@ bat of the game on a 2 @-@ 1 count to give the Red Sox the lead in the first inning for the fourth straight game ; it proved to be the game @-@ winning run . Ramírez singled in the third inning to give him a hit in 17 consecutive postseason games . Doubles by David Ortiz to right and Trot Nixon to center , who narrowly missed a grand slam after swinging on a 3 @-@ 0 count , scored two more runs for the Red Sox to give them a three @-@ run lead .

In the top of the eighth , Mueller led off with a single to right and Nixon followed with his third double of the game . Jason Isringhausen came in to pitch for the Cardinals with the bases loaded and nobody out , and was able the finish the inning without allowing a run to score . Kevin Millar pinch hit for the Red Sox starting pitcher Lowe during this inning . It was the third straight game in which the Red Sox starting pitcher had not allowed an earned run .

Red Sox closer Foulke came in to pitch the bottom of the ninth . Pujols led off the inning by hitting a single through Foulke 's legs and into center field . After Foulke induced Rolen into a fly out and struck out Edmonds , Pujols took second base , but no stolen base due to fielder 's indifference . Édgar Rentería then hit a ground ball that bounced back to Foulke on the mound . Foulke threw it underhand to Doug Mientkiewicz at first base to end the game , and secure the series .

The series win was the Red Sox 's first title in 86 years . They were also the fourth team to win a World Series without trailing in any of the games in the series , and the seventh to win it having previously been three outs away from elimination . With the win , pitcher Lowe became the first pitcher to ever win three series @-@ clinching games in a single postseason having also won Game 3 of the ALDS against the Angels and Game 7 of the ALCS against the Yankees . Although the series was won in St. Louis , 3 @,@ 000 Red Sox fans were present at the game , and many stayed after the final out to celebrate with the team , including going on the field when the team came back out of their dugout with the World Series trophy . Ramírez , who was named the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the series , said afterwards " I don 't believe in curses , I believe you make your own destination . [sic] " Kevin Millar said that it was important to finish off the Cardinals in four and not let it go to a fifth game given the team 's history .

= = Statistics = =

AL Boston Red Sox (4) beat NL St. Louis Cardinals (0)

= = Broadcasting = =

The series was broadcast by Fox , and the announcers were Joe Buck and Tim McCarver . Jeanne Zelasko covered the pre @-@ game build up to all four games and the presentation of the World Series trophy . An average of 23 @.@ 1 million people watched Game 1 . This was the highest television ratings for the opening game of a World Series in five years and had the highest average number of viewers since 1996 . It was also the highest rated broadcast on any network in the past ten months . The ratings for the first two games were also the highest average since 1996 , and the average for the first three games was the highest since 1999 . Game 3 had the highest average number of viewers with 24 @.@ 4 million , since 1996 when 28 @.@ 7 million watched the Atlanta Braves and New York Yankees . It was also the Fox network 's highest rating for a Game 3 of a World Series ever . Game 4 posted an 18 @.@ 2 national rating giving the series an overall average of 15 @.@ 8 . This was the highest average in five years , and the average number of viewers of 25 @.@ 4 million , was the highest since 1995 .

In terms of local radio , Joe Castiglione and Jerry Trupiano called the series for WEEI in Boston while Mike Shannon announced for KMOX in St. Louis .

= = Aftermath = =

With the win coming eight months after the New England Patriots victory in Super Bowl XXXVIII , the event made Boston the first city to have a Super Bowl and World Series winner in the same year since Pittsburgh in 1979 . A number of players from both teams won awards for their performances during the season . Manny Ramírez won the Hank Aaron Award and , along with Albert Pujols , a Silver Slugger Award , while Gold Glove awards were won by Mike Matheny , Scott Rolen and Jim Edmonds . The American sports magazine Sports Illustrated honored the Red Sox with their Sportsman of the Year award a month later , making them the first professional team to ever win the award . For pitcher Curt Schilling , it was the second time he had won the award , having shared it with then @-@ Arizona Diamondbacks teammate Randy Johnson in 2001 .

This World Series win by the Red Sox continued a trend of Boston teams beating St. Louis teams to win championships . Previously , in Super Bowl XXXVI , the New England Patriots had upset the St. Louis Rams ' " Greatest Show on Turf " , the Boston Bruins had swept the St. Louis Blues in the 1970 Stanley Cup Finals (with Game 4 being remembered for Bobby Orr 's Cup @-@ winning overtime goal that sent him flying) , and the Boston Celtics ? when Bill Russell was still just a rookie ? had beaten the St. Louis Hawks to win their first NBA championship in 1957 . With championship showdowns between teams from Boston and St. Louis seen in Major League Baseball , the NFL , NBA and NHL , it is the only showdown between teams from two specific locations , that has been seen in each of these four leagues .

= = = Red Sox = = =

The Red Sox 's win in the World Series ended the " Curse of the Bambino " , which supposedly had afflicted the team ever since the Red Sox sold Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees in 1919 . Pitcher Derek Lowe and other players said that the team would no longer hear " 1918 ! " at Yankee Stadium ever again . Kevin Millar said to all Red Sox fans : " We wanted to do it so bad for the city of Boston . To win a World Series with this on our chests , it hasn 't been done since 1918 . So rip up those ' 1918 ! ' posters right now . " Members of previous Red Sox teams who had fallen short immediately acclaimed the 2004 team , including Pesky - who had been the shortstop responsible for a fatal checking error that had allowed the Cardinals ' Enos Slaughter to complete his " Mad Dash " to score the winning run in Game 7 at the old Sportsman 's Park in 1946 . Pesky watched the game from the visiting clubhouse and was immediately embraced by Millar , Wakefield , Schilling and others as a living representative of those previous teams as he joined the celebrations .

It also added to the recent success of Boston @-@ area teams , following the Patriots wins in Super Bowls XXXVI and XXXVIII . With the Patriots having won Super Bowl XXXVIII the previous February , the Red Sox winning the World Series marked the first time since 1979 that the same city had a Super Bowl and World Series winner in the same year - the last city to do accomplish the feat had been Pittsburgh , when the Steelers and Pirates had won Super Bowl XIII and the World Series respectively . The city would go on to record a decade of sports success from 2001 to 2011 with seven championships in the four major North American sports leagues (MLB , the NFL , the NBA and the NHL) , including one in each league after the Patriots won two more Super Bowls , the Celtics won the 2008 NBA championship and the Bruins won the Stanley Cup in 2011 . Following the Bruins winning the 2011 Stanley Cup Finals , Boston Globe columnist Dan Shaughnessy ranked all seven championships and chose the Red Sox ' 2004 World Series win as the greatest Boston sports championship during the ten @-@ year span .

Red Sox Manager Terry Francona became the third manager in four years to win a World Series in his first year as manager , following Bob Brenly of the 2001 Arizona Diamondbacks and Jack McKeon of the 2003 Florida Marlins .

Massachusetts US Senator , Boston resident and future Secretary of State John Kerry , who had been named Democratic presidential nominee in Boston that summer , wore a Red Sox cap the day after the series ended . He also said that the Red Sox had " [come] back against all odds and showed America what heart is . " His Republican opponent , incumbent President George W. Bush , made a phone call from the White House to congratulate the team 's owner John W. Henry , president Larry Lucchino and manager Terry Francona . The team also visited Bush at the White House the following March , where he gave a speech honoring their presence , in which he asked " what took [them] so long ? " A future Presidential candidate , Mitt Romney , at the time Massachusetts Governor , ceremonially helped remove the Reverse Curve road sign on Storrow Drive that had been famously spray @-@ painted to read " Reverse the Curse " as a further marking of the end of the Curse .

The day after the Red Sox win , the Boston Globe doubled its daily press run , from 500 @,@ 000 to 1 @.@ 2 million copies , with the headline , " YES !!! " right across the front page .

The Red Sox held their World Series victory parade on the following Saturday , October 30 . The team was transported around on 17 duck boats equipped with loudspeakers so the players could talk to the spectators . Due to large interest in the parade , it was lengthened by officials the day before to include the Charles River , so that fans could watch from Boston and Cambridge river banks . The parade did not however , include a staged rally . The parade began at 10 a.m. local time at Fenway Park , turned east onto Boylston Street , then west onto Tremont Street and Storrow Drive before entering the river . One of the lanes on Massachusetts Avenue had to be closed to accommodate members of the media filming the parade as it passed under the Harvard Bridge . Ramírez was handed a sign by one of the spectators part of the way through the parade , which read , " Jeter is playing golf today . This is better ! " He held on to this sign for the rest of the parade , in a similar way to what Tug McGraw said after the Philadelphia Phillies won the 1980 World Series , " For once , we take a bite out of the Big Apple " . Over three million people were estimated to have attended the parade , making it the largest gathering ever in the city of Boston .

The Red Sox were presented with their World Series rings on April 11 , 2005 , at a ceremony before the team 's first home game of the 2005 season . Former Red Sox players Bobby Doerr , Dom DiMaggio , Johnny Pesky , and Carl Yastrzemski were all present , as were the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Pops Orchestra . During the ceremony , five red pennants were first unfurled at the top of the Green Monster , showing the years of each of the Red Sox previous World Series wins . A much larger banner was unfurled that covered the entire wall and read " 2004 World Series Champions . " James Taylor , himself a Boston native and a Red Sox fan , performed " America the Beautiful " , and 19 members of the United States Army and Marine Corps who had fought in the Iraq War walked onto the field . Moments of silence were held to honor the deaths of Pope John Paul II , who had died nine days earlier , and former Red Sox relief pitcher , Dick Radatz . The rings were handed out by the team 's owner , John W. Henry . Former Red Sox players Lowe and Dave Roberts , who had joined the Los Angeles Dodgers and San Diego Padres respectively

during the off @-@ season , were also present to collect their rings . The ceremony , which lasted around an hour , ended with stars from other Boston sports teams , including the Celtics ' Bill Russell , the Bruins ' Bobby Orr and the Patriots ' Tedy Bruschi and Richard Seymour , throwing ceremonial first pitches . The presence of Bruschi and Seymour made evident the recent success of Boston @-@ area teams . The day after the Red Sox won the Series , Shaughnessy and the rest of the news media said of the Red Sox home opener : " The team in the third @-@ base dugout ? The New York Yankees , Sweet . " In a sign of respect , the Red Sox rivals came to the top step of the visitors dugout and gave the Red Sox a standing ovation . The Fenway Park crowd burst into cheers when Yankees pitcher Mariano Rivera was introduced , breaking from the tradition of fans booing opposing players , due to him having blown save opportunities in Games 4 and 5 of the 2004 ALCS . Rivera was a good sport about it and laughed while waving his arms in mock appreciation of the fans .

The following August , Simon & Schuster published *Faithful* , a book which chronicled e @-@ mails about the Red Sox , between American writers , and Red Sox fans , Stephen King and Stewart O 'Nan during the 2004 season . In March 2005 , Houghton Mifflin Company published *Reversing the Curse* , a book by Shaughnessy , author of the bestselling *The Curse of the Bambino* , chronicling the 2004 Red Sox season . ESPN 's Bill Simmons published *Now I Can Die In Peace* , a collection of his columns with updated annotations and notes , including columns for each of the last four games of the ALCS and each World Series game ? with Game 4 being a running diary . The Farrelly Brothers altered the ending of their 2005 film *Fever Pitch* to coincide with the actual end of the series . They and their crew , plus stars Drew Barrymore and Jimmy Fallon , flew to St. Louis and Barrymore and Fallon attended Game 4 in character , complete with the two of them running onto the field at Busch Stadium and kissing once the final out was made .

= = = Cardinals = = =

On the Cardinals ' side , the media expressed disappointment at the team 's failure to win a game in the Series after recording the team 's best regular season in over 60 years . Many reporters believed that the Cardinals had not played up to their usual standard , and much of the blame was directed at Rolen , Edmonds and Reggie Sanders , three of the Cardinals ' best hitters , who had combined for one hit in 39 at bats in the series .

It also marked the last time that Busch Memorial Stadium would host a World Series . The Cardinals moved to the new Busch Stadium in their championship season of 2006 , which was their first since 1982 .

= = = 2005 season = = =

Both the Red Sox and Cardinals made the playoffs the following season . The Red Sox lost to the eventual champions the Chicago White Sox , in the American League Division Series . The Cardinals , in a repeat meeting of the previous season 's National League Championship Series , lost to the Houston Astros . However , the city of Boston would see more success when the New England Patriots won Super Bowl XXXIX , three months after the Red Sox won the World Series , giving the greater Boston area its third championship in 12 months , making it the first time since 1980 that any city had two Super Bowl winners and a World Series winner in a period of the same length .

Both teams also won one of the next three World Series in successive years ; the Cardinals , as noted above , in 2006 , beating the Detroit Tigers in five games , becoming the first team since the New York Yankees in 1923 , to win a World Series championship in their first season in a new stadium . Tony La Russa would achieve the distinction that he couldn 't achieve in 2004 of managing World Series winners in both leagues . He would continue to wear number 10 to pay tribute to Sparky Anderson afterwards .

The Red Sox won the World Series the following year , sweeping the Colorado Rockies in four games . Tom Werner , chairman of the Red Sox , and team president Larry Lucchino said that the

2004 championship was " for the parents and grandparents who had suffered through the Curse of the Bambino " , while 2007 was " for children , grandchildren , and for Red Sox Nation " .