

BOSTON RED SOX ALCS NOTES



TAMPA BAY RAYS -BOSTON RED SOX

Friday October 10, 2008 • St. Petersburg, FL • Time: 8:37pm EDT
 Saturday October 11, 2008 • St. Petersburg, FL • Time: 8:07pm EDT
 Monday October 13 2008 • Boston, MA • Time: 4:37 pm
 Tuesday October 14, 2008 • Boston, MA • Time: 8:07 pm
 Thursday October 16, 2008 • Boston, MA • Time: 8:07 pm*
 Saturday October 18, 2008 • St. Petersburg, FL • Time: 4:37 pm*
 Sunday October 19, 2008 • St. Petersburg, FL • Time: 8:07pm*



ABOUT THE SOX: The Tampa Bay Rays are not the only team that has had success changing their name. Back in 1908, after a dismal 59-63 1907 season, owner John Taylor made the executive decision to change the name of the team from the Boston Americans to the Red Sox. After that the Red Sox rattled off 10 winning seasons including four championships.

- 2008 marks the fifth time in six years the Red Sox have made an appearance MLB's post-season, four times behind manager Terry Francona. Since trading Manny Ramirez to the Los Angeles Dodgers at the deadline, the Sox lead the American League with a 34-19 record since August 1. Boston finished the month of September strong with a 16-10 record
- At 95-67 the Red Sox are fourth in Major League Baseball with a 94-66 record behind, only, the Los Angeles Angels (100-62), Chicago Cubs (97-64) and the Tampa Bay Rays (97-65).
- Since the current playoff format was instituted in 1995, it is the sixth time, most overall, the Sox have appeared in MLB playoffs via the Wild Card slot and are just one game over .500 at 22-21.

SOX IN THE POSTSEASON SINCE 1995:

The Red Sox are a combined 33-27 in the post-season since winning the American League East in 1995.

SOX IN THE ALCS

YEAR	OPPONENT	WINNER	RESULT
1999	New York Yankees	Yankees	Lost 1-3
2003	New York Yankees	Yankees	Lost 3-4
2004	New York Yankees	Red Sox	Won 4-3/Won World Series
2007	Cleveland Indians	Red Sox	Won 4-3/Won World Series

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THE RED SOX AND RAYS



2008/TRENDS: The Red Sox and Angels faced each other 18 times Tampa Bay taking the season series 10-8. Home field was a big advantage during the regular season as the Sox are 7-2 against the Rays at Fenway Park. Until September 9, the Red Sox had not lost a home game to the East Division Champion. The team will never say it winning the East was important because it meant they would have had home field advantage if they met in the playoffs. Now the Sox must play four games (if the series goes seven games) in Tropicana Field where they are a dismal 1-8 on the season.

DATE	SCORE	WINNER	LOSER	SAVE
4/25	L4-5	Dohmann	TIMLIN	
4/26	L1-2	Dohmann	BUCHHOLZ	
4/27	L0-3	Shields	BECKETT	
5/2	W 7-3	BUCHHOLZ	Jackson	
5/3	W 12-4	BECKETT	Shields	
5/4	W 7-3	LESTER	Kazmir	PAPELBON
6/3	W 7-4	MASTERSON	Garza	PAPELBON
6/4	W 5-1	BECKETT	Jackson	
6/5	W 7-1	LESTER	Shields	
6/30	L4-7	Shields	MASTERSON	Powell
7/1	L1-5	Garza	WAKEFIELD	Balfour
7/2	L1-7	Glover	HANSEN	Wheeler
9/8	W 3-0	LESTER	Jackson	PAPELBON
9/9	L4-5	Wheeler	PAPELBON	Percival
9/10	L2-4 (14)	Miller	TIMLIN	Hammel
9/15	W 13-5	MATSUZAKA	Kazmir	
9/16	L1-2	Wheeler	MASTERSON	
9/17	L3-10	Balfour	WAKEFIELD	

Bold at Fenway Park

ALL TIME: 2008 marked the first time the Rays won the season series with the Red Sox since 1999, when the Sox were 4-9 against Tampa Bay...The Sox hold the all-time record with 119 wins and 68 losses and are 41 games over .500 at Fenway (68-27)...Rays have closed the gap at the Trop and are just eight (8) games under .500 against the Sox.

UPCOMING ALCS SCHEDULE AND PROBABLE PITCHING MATCHUPS

DATE	OPP.	WHERE	BOS TIME	RED SOX STARTER	RAYS STARTER	TV/RADIO
Fri. Oct. 10	TB	St. Petersburg, FL	8:37pm	Daisuke Matsuzaka (18-3 4.13ERA)	James Shields (14-8, 3.56 ERA)	TBS/WRKO
Sat. Oct. 11	TB	St. Petersburg, FL	8:07pm	Josh Beckett (12-10, 4.03 ERA)	Scott Kazmir (12-8, 3.49 ERA)	TBS/WRKO
Mon. Oct. 13	TB	Boston, MA	4:37pm	Jon Lester (16-6, 3.21 ERA)	Matt Garza (11-9, 3.70 ERA)	TBS/WRKO
Tues. Oct. 14	TB	Boston, MA	8:07pm	Tim Wakefield (10-11 4.13 ERA)	Andy Sonnanstine (13-9 4.38 ERA)	TBS/WRKO
Thurs. Oct. 16*	TB*	Boston, MA	8:07pm	Daisuke Matsuzaka (18-3 4.13ERA)	James Shields (14-8, 3.56 ERA)	TBS/WRKO
Sat. Oct. 18*	TB*	St. Petersburg, FL	4:37 pm	Josh Beckett (12-10, 4.03 ERA)	Scott Kazmir (12-8, 3.49 ERA)	TBS/WRKO
Sun. Oct. 19*	TB*	St. Petersburg, FL	8:07 pm	Jon Lester (16-6, 3.21 ERA)	Matt Garza (11-9, 3.70 ERA)	TBS/WRKO

* = if necessary



PROBABLE STARTERS

GAME 1: Red Sox-Rays @ Tropicana Field October 10, 2008

ALCS: GAME 1

BOSTON RED SOX (95-67) v. TAMPA BAY RAYS (97-65)

WHERE: *Tropicana Field; St. Petersburg, Florida*

WHEN: *Friday October 10, 2008*

TIME: *8:37pm*

18 DAISUKE MATSUZAKA, RHP

REG. 2008: 18-3, 2.90 ERA (54 ER/167.2 IP), 154 K in 29 GS
CAREER: 33-15, 3.72 ERA (154 ER/372.1 IP), 355 K in 61 GS

18-3, 2.90 ERA, 154 K, 29 starts

2008 vs. TB: 1-0, 3.00 ERA (5 ER/15.0 IP), 17 K in 3 GS
CAREER vs. TB: 2-3, 3.75 ERA (20 ER/48.0 IP), 52 K in 8 GS

CAREER at TROPICANA FIELD: 1-2, 3.41 ERA (11 ER/29.0 IP), 33 K in 5 GS

Daisuke Matsuzaka takes the hill in Game One of the American League Championship Series against the Tampa Bay Rays on Friday October 10. He will be making his fourth appearance against the Rays this year where he is 1-0 on the season with a 3.00 ERA and 17-to-11 strike out-to-walk ratio. But these numbers lie. Looking at his three previous appearances in 2008, he has not made it past the fifth inning against the Rays productive offense. Unlike the Angels last series, Tampa Bay has a patient offense and can provide the timely hit when they need it, it is how they were able to walk away with the one-run victory in two of three Matsuzaka starts (9/9 at Fenway and 7/2 in St. Petersburg). On July 2 in St. Petersburg, Matsuzaka allowed just one run on two hits while walking five and striking out five in five innings before turning it over to the bullpen that eventually lost the game 7-6 for the Japanese right hander. Towards the end of the year, on September 9, the Rays got to Matsuzaka for three runs on eight hits while walking four times and striking out five in five innings and eventually won their first game in Boston in 2008 5-4. Tampa Bay will make Matsuzaka work.

RAYS v. MATSUZAKA in 2008

HOT	COLD
Gabe Gross, 2-4 (.500), BB, K, .600 OBP, .500 SLG, 1.000 OPS	B.J. Upton, 1-13 (.077), 4 K, 2 BB, 2 RBI
Evan Longoria, 1-2 (.500) BB, RBI, .750 OBP, .500 SLG, 1.250 OPS	Jason Bartlett, 1-11 (.091), 4 K, RBI
Fernando Perez, 1-2 (.500) K, .500 OBP, .500 SLG, 1.000 OPS	Cliff Floyd, 0-5 2 K, BB, RBI
Akinori Iwamura, 9-24 (.375), 2B, HR, RBI, 2 BB, K, .423 OBP, .542 SLG, .965 OPS	Eric Hinske, 0-5, 3 K, BB
Willy Aybar, 1-3 (.333)	Ben Zobrist, 0-6, 3 K, 2 BB

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

*Born: Daisuke Matsuzaka...September 13, 1980 Tokyo, Japan...Height: 6'0" Weight: 185lbs...Bats: Right Throws: Right...MLB Debut: April 5, 2007...The 1980 academic year (April 2, 1980-April 1, 1981) in Japan has been termed the **Matsuzaka generation**...MVP of the 2006 World Baseball Classic when Japan defeated Cuba for the title...won a bronze medal in the Olympics for baseball...Married to former Japanese television journalist Tomoyo Shibata (NIPPON TV)...have two children, daughter, Niko (2005) and a son (3/15/2008)...Nicknamed "The Monster" in Japan*

33 – JAMES SHIELDS

REG. 2008: 14-8, 3.56 ERA (85 ER/215.0 IP), 160 K in 33 GS
CAREER: 32-24, 3.96 ERA (244 ER/554.2 IP), 448 K in 85 GS

14-8, 3.56 ERA, 160 K, 33 starts

2008 vs. BOS: 2-2 5.85 ERA (13 ER/20.0 IP), 17 K in 4 GS
CAREER vs. BOS: 2-4, 5.23 ERA (24 ER/41.1 IP), 41 K in 13 GS

CAREER at TROPICANA FIELD: 19-8, 3.25 ERA (103 ER/285.2 IP), 241 K in 99 GS

After Tampa Bay left hander, Scott Kazmir started the season on the disabled list, James Shields was the Rays Ace for the first month of the season. Even though his win-loss record in April does not show it he was a dominating pitcher with a 26 to 6 strike out to walk ratio and a 2.53 ERA including his first and only career shut out and complete game against the Red Sox on April 27 where he allowed just two hits in nine innings while walking one and striking out seven Sox batters. But that is where things turned for Shields. After shutting on the Sox in April he has only made it to the sixth inning once in his next three starts against Boston. On

SOX v. SHIELDS in 2008

HOT	COLD
Dustin Pedroia, 5-10 (.500) 2B, RBI, K, .545 OBP, .600 SLG, 1.145 OPS	Kevin Youkilis, 0-17, 2 BB, 6K, .150 OBP
David Ortiz, 7-14 (.500), 4 2B, 2 HR, 6 RBI, BB, 2 K, .533 OBP, 1.214 SLG, 1.78 OPS	Jed Lowrie, 0-3, K
Sean Casey, 2-4 (.500)	Jason Varitek, 1-10 (.100) RBI, 5K,
J.D. Drew, 4-12 (.333)	Jacoby Ellsbury, 1-10 (.100) BB, 2K

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Born: James Anthony Shields...December 20, 1981 Newhall, CA...Height: 6'4" Weight: 215lbs...MLB Debut: May 31, 2006...Attended William S. Hart High School in Santa Clarita, California with White Sox outfielder Jerry Owens and Ravens quarterback Kyle Boller...Married wife Ryane Barber in November, 2007 in Kauai, Hawaii...the two have one daughter, Ashtyn (3)...cousin of San Francisco outfielder Aaron Rowand...Not related to Los Angeles Angels pitcher Scot Shields...Resides in Las Vegas, NV



GAME 2: Red Sox-Rays @ Tropicana Field October 11, 2008

BOSTON RED SOX (95-67) v. TAMPA BAY RAYS (97-65)

WHERE: Tropicana Field; St. Petersburg, Florida

WHEN: Saturday October 11, 2008

TIME: 8:07pm

19 JOSH BECKETT, RHP

REG. 2008: 12-10, 4.03 ERA (78 ER/174.1 IP), 172 K in 27 GS
CAREER: 89-62, 3.78 ERA (499 ER/1,188.2 IP), 1,131 K in 193 GS

12-10, 4.03ERA, 172 K, 27 starts

2008 vs. TB: 2-1, 2.06 ERA (8 ER/35.0 IP), 37 K in 5 GS
CAREER vs. TB: 5-3, 3.11 ERA (23 ER/66.2 IP), 75 K in 10 GS
CAREER at TROPICANA FIELD: 1-2, 1.93 ERA (6 ER/28.0 IP), 34 K in 4 GS
CAREER at FENWAY PARK: 21-16, 4.79 ERA (156 ER/293.0 IP), 263 K in 46 GS

Josh Beckett is making his sixth start against Tampa Bay in 2008 and he is 2-1 with a 2.06 ERA and 37 strikes against the East Division champs. The Sox fireball right hander entered the post-season with an oblique injury that pushed his Game One ALDS start back to Game Three against the Angels were he allowed four runs, including two homeruns, on nine hits in five innings while walking four and striking out six on 106 pitches. Against the Rays this year, Beckett has broken his single-game high in strikes, which previously stood at 12 but on April 27 he struck out 13 Tampa Bay batters in seven innings on 109 pitches in a 3-0 Red Sox loss. On May 3 was one of Beckett's longest outings of the year, pitching eight innings allowing four runs on seven hits while striking out five and walking one on 100 pitches at Fenway Park against the Rays. In his last regular season start against the Rays in 2008, Beckett went the distance in a 2-1 Tampa Bay win allowing just one run (a homerun) on three hits while walking one and striking out seven on 95 pitches. Beckett did not receive the decision. Just before he appeared against the Rays on September 10, going six innings allowing one run on six hits while striking out seven and walking two on 84 pitches. On July 4, Beckett recorded his second win against Tampa Bay with six strong innings allowing one run while scattering seven hits and striking out five on 92 pitches.

RAYS v. BECKETT in 2008

HOT	COLD
Willy Aybar, 2-3 (.667) 3B, RBI, .667OBP, 1.333 SLG, 2.000 OPS	Carlos Pena, 3-17 (.176) 2B, HR, RBI, 2BB, 8K
Jason Bartlett, 6-18 (.333), 2 2B, .333OBP, .444 SLG, .778 OPS	Dioner Navarro, 3-19 (.158) BB, RBI, 5K
Evan Longoria, 4-12 (.333), 2B, HR, 2 RBI, .375OBP, .500SLG, .875 OPS	Gabe Gross, 1-13 (.077), HR, BB, RBI, 3K
Akinori Iwamura, 7-22 (.318), 2B, HR, RBI, .375 OBP, .500 SLG, .875 OPS	Fernando Perez, 0-3, 2K

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Born: Joshua Patrick Beckett...May 15, 1980 Spring, TX...Height: 6'5" Weight: 220lbs...Bats: Right Throws: Right...MLB Debut: September 4, 2001...2003 World Series MVP...2007 ALCS MVP...Friends with NASCAR Driver Jamie McMurray...resides in San Antonio...fan of the San Antonio Spurs and the Texas A&M Aggies...dated country singer Danielle Peck...Favorite Food: Onion Rings

19 SCOTT KAZMIR

REG. 2008: 12-8, 3.49 ERA (59 ER/152.1 IP) in 33 GS
CAREER: 47-37, 3.61 ERA (290 ER/723.0 IP) in 124 GS

12-8, 3.49 ERA, 27 starts

2008 vs. BOS: 0-2, 9.00 ERA (18 ER/18.0 IP) in 4 GS
CAREER vs. BOS: 6-7, 3.62 ERA (48 ER/119.1 IP) in 21 GS
CAREER at TROPICANA FIELD: 21-14, 3.11 ERA (123 ER/356.1 IP) in 60 GS
CAREER at FENWAY PARK: 4-4, 3.02 ERA (21 ER/62.2 IP), 68 K in 11GS

In the past few years the Red Sox could not touch Scott Kazmir. The Rays left hander has owned the Sox coming into the season but in 2008 it changed. Partly due to injury, Kazmir was not the same dominating pitcher against Boston as he once was but in his four starts against the Sox, Tampa Bay is 2-2. After spending the first month of the season on the disabled list due to his pitching elbow, Kazmir's first appearance against Boston was at Fenway Park on May 4 where he struggled to pitch four innings allowing three runs on six hits while walking three and striking out five on 93 pitches. In his July 2 match up against Daisuke Matsuzaka, Kazmir earned a no decision in the Rays 7-6 victory, pitching five innings allowing four runs on seven hits while walking four and striking out three on 107 pitches. His longest outing of the season against Boston came September 9 at Fenway, where he allowed just two runs on five hits in six innings, striking out four on 100 pitches. But following his longest outing was his shortstop outing where he did not make it past the third inning allowing nine runs, including four homeruns, on six hits while walking four and striking out just two on 72 pitches. Kazmir is still one of the top left handers in the game but 2008 saw his dominance of the Red Sox start to fade.

RED SOX v. KAZMIR in 2008

HOT	COLD
Dustin Pedroia, 14-25 (.560) 2 2B, 3B, HR, 3RBI, K, .621OBP, .840SLG, 1.461OPS	Mark Kotsay, 2-12 (.167), RBI, 3K
Jason Bay, 3-9 (.333), 2B, HR, RBI, 2BB, 4K, .455OBP, .778SLG, 1.232OPS	J.D. Drew, 1-7 (.143), 3B, RBI, BB, 3K
Coco Crisp, 9-30 (.300), 3 2B, 5BB, 10K, .400OBP, .400SLG, .800OPS	Kevin Cash, 0-2, BB, 2K
	Jed Lowrie, 0-2, 3BB

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Born: Scott Edward Kazmir...January 24, 1984 Houston, TX...Height: 6'0" Weight: 190lbs...Bats: Left, Throws: Left...MLB Debut: August 23, 2004...Attended Cypress Falls High School in Houston, class of 2002...Now holds the record for most single season strike outs by high school pitchers in Texas with 175 breaking Josh Beckett's previous record of 172, as a junior at Cypress High...Resides in the Tampa Bay area year round



GAME 3: Red Sox-Rays @ Fenway Park October 13, 2008

ALCS: GAME 3

BOSTON RED SOX (95-67) v. TAMPA BAY RAYS (97-65)

WHERE: *Fenway Park; Boston, Massachusetts*

WHEN: *Monday October 13, 2008*

TIME: *4:37pm*

31 – JON LESTER, LHP

REG. 2008: 16-6, 3.21 ERA (75 ER/210.1 IP) in 33 GS
CAREER: 27-8, 3.81 ERA (150 ER/354.2 IP) in 59 GS

16-6, 3.21 ERA, 152 K, 33 starts

2008 vs. TB: 3-0, 0.90 ERA (2 ER/20.0 IP), 19 K in 3 GS
CAREER vs. TB: 4-0, 3.38 ERA (16 ER/42.2 IP), 35 K in 7 GS
CAREER at FENWAY PARK: 16-2, 3.30 ERA (69 ER/188.0 IP), 145 K in 30 GS
CAREER at TROPICANA FIELD: 1-0, 6.75 ERA (9 ER/12.0 IP), 7 K in 2 GS

All of Jon Lester's starts against Tampa Bay have come at Fenway Park where he is undefeated against the East Division Champs. Every outing against the Rays, Lester has improved on his previous performance. In his first start against fellow Southpaw Scott Kazmir (his third time being paired up with the Tampa Bay lefty), Lester went six innings allowing one earned run on four hits while walking three and striking out five Ray hitters on 112 pitches. When he faced the Rays again on June 5, Lester went 6.1 innings allowing just one earned run while scattering eight hits and striking out five on 109 pitches. In his last start against Tampa Bay, it was Lester who recorded the only win in the final season series at Fenway between these two rivals. On September 8, Lester improved once again by shutting out the Rays in 7.2 innings of work while scattering six hits, walking three and striking out nine on 119 pitches.

RAYS v. LESTER in 2008

HOT	COLD
Ben Zobrist, 1-1 (1.000), BB, 2.000 OPS	Cliff Floyd, 0-2, 2K
Jason Bartlett, 4-8 (.500), 2K, .500 OBP, .500 SLG, 1.000 OPS	Eric Hinske, 0-3
Willy Aybar, 2-6 (.333), 2 2B, K	Rocco Baldelli, 0-3, 3K
Evan Longoria, 2-6 (.333) K	Gabe Gross, 0-3, K
Carlos Pena, 5-16 (.313) 2B, 2 HR, 6 RBI, BB, 4K, .316OBP, .750SLG, 1.066OPS	Fernando Perez, 0-3

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Born: Jonathan Tyler Lester...January 7, 1984 Tacoma, WA...Parents: John and Kathie Lester...Height: 6'2" Weight: 190lbs....MLB Debut: June 10, 2006...Attended Bellarmine Preparatory School in Tacoma, graduated in 2002 where he was a three time MVP, three time All-Area selection and was named the Gatorade State Player of the Year in 2000...diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma September, 2006 and went into remission December, 2006...honored for his comeback from cancer Lester was awarded the Tony Conigliaro Award in 2007...Engaged to his girlfriend Farrah Johnson 7/11/2008

22 – MATT GARZA, RHP

REG. 2008: 11-9, 3.70 ERA (76 ER/184.2 IP), 128 K in 30 GS
CAREER: 19-22, 4.02 ERA (142 ER/317.2 IP), 233 K in 54 GS

11-9, 3.70 ERA, 128 K, 30 starts

2008 vs. BOS: 1-1, 4.50 ERA (11 ER/22.0 IP), 10 K in 4 GS
CAREER vs. BOS: 3-1, 3.86 ERA (14 ER/32.2 IP), 19 K in 6 GS
CAREER at FENWAY PARK: 2-1, 4.50 ERA (8 ER/16.0 IP), 12 K in 3 GS
CAREER at TROPICANA FIELD: 7-3, 2.89 ERA (30 ER/93.1 IP), 66 K in 15 GS

Although his record does not show it, Matt Garza has been the most effective pitcher for the Rays against the Red Sox this year. Sox batters are hovering just above the Mendoza Line (19-for-94, .202BA) against Tampa Bay's number three starter in 2008 with three doubles, three homeruns, 11 RBIs and 16 strike outs. For a team that prides itself on getting on base Garza has kept the Sox off base by allowing only 11 walks leading to a .294 OBP and .623 OPS. He faced the Sox four times during the regular season and is 1-1 with a 3.86 ERA and has only made past the fifth inning once but the Rays have won three out of his four starts against Boston. Garza's best start against the Red Sox came on the first of July against Tim Wakefield when he went seven strong innings allowing zero runs while scattering five hits and striking out three on 102 pitches in the Rays' 3-1 win at Tropicana Field. But he can be Jekyll & Hyde at times especially in his last start in St. Petersburg once again against Wakefield where he failed to get through the critical fifth inning allowing three runs on five hits, including two homeruns, while walking two and striking out three on 75 pitches.

RED SOX v. GARZA in 2008

HOT	COLD
Jacoby Ellsbury, 6-13 (.462) RBI, BB, .500OBP, .462SLG, .962OPS	Coco Crisp, 1-9 (.111), 2B, 2 RBI, BB .422 OPS
J.D. Drew, 2-5 (.400), 2B, HR, 2 RBI, 2BB, K, .500OBP, 1.200SLG, 1.700OPS	Sean Casey, 1-10 (.100), 2 BB, K, .350 OPS
	Kevin Youkilis, 1-12 (.083), BB, K, .298 OPS
	Mark Kotsay, 0-2, K
	Jed Lowrie, 0-3, K
	Alex Cora, 0-3

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Born: Matthew Scott Albidrez-Garza...November 26, 1983 Selma, CA...Height: 6'4" Weight: 205lbs...Bats: Right, Throws: Right...College: Fresno State...MLB Debut: August 11, 2006...Graduated from Washington Union High School (CA) in 2001 and attended Fresno State where he was named the Most Outstanding Pitcher and named to the second team All-Western Athletic Conference in 2004...WAC pitcher of the Year and named to the first-team All-WAC in 2005...Married his high school sweetheart, Serina and have two children Matthew (2002) and Sierra (2005)



GAME 4: Red Sox-Rays @ Fenway Park October 14, 2008

ALCS: GAME 4

BOSTON RED SOX (95-67) v. TAMPA BAY RAYS (97-65)

WHERE: Fenway Park, Boston, Massachusetts

WHEN: Tuesday October 14, 2008

TIME: 8:07pm

49 – TIM WAKEFIELD

10-11, 4.13 ERA, 117 K, 30 starts

REG. 2008: 10-11 4.13 ERA (83 ER/181.0 IP) in 30 GS
 CAREER: 178-157, 4.32 ERA (1,345 ER/2,802.0 IP) in 400 GS

2008 vs. TB: 0-2, 5.87 ERA (10 ER/15.1 IP), 7 K in 3 GS
 CAREER vs. TB: 19-5, 3.32 ERA (78 ER/211.2 IP), 145 K in 31 GS
 CAREER at FENWAY PARK: 84-68, 4.31 ERA (633 ER/1,321.2 IP), 877 K in 182 GS
 CAREER at TROPICANA FIELD: 9-3, 2.86 ERA (37 ER/116.1 IP), 85 K in 17 GS

Tim Wakefield has always had the Tampa Bay Rays number, defeating them more than any other major league pitcher. The elder statesman of the Red Sox not only has a 19-5 record and a 3.32 ERA but also has three saves and 145 strike outs in 211.2 innings of work against the Rays. His 2.86 ERA inside Tropicana Field is the lowest among all Major League stadiums he has pitched in. But in 2008 the Tampa Bay had an opportunity at redemption against the knuckleballer and they took it. Wakefield started three games against Rays right hander Matt Garza. In his first start on April 25, he went six innings allowing three earned runs on six hits while walking five and striking out one in the 5-4 Tampa Bay win. Wakefield's second start came two months later on July 1, where he went seven strong innings allowing just one run on five hits while walking three and striking out four on 115 pitches but it was not enough as the Rays defeated the Sox 3-1. The knuckleballer's last start against Tampa Bay was his worst where he did not make it out of third inning allowing six earned runs on six hits, including three homeruns, while striking out only two on 51 pitches in 2.1 innings of work.

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Born: Timothy Stephen Wakefield...August 2, 1966 Melbourne, FL...Height: 6'2" Weight: 210lbs...Bats: Right, Throws: Right...College: Florida Tech...MLB Debut: July 31, 1992...Graduated from Eau Gallie High School in 1984 and attended Florida Tech where he was a shortstop for the Panthers...he was Drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1988 as infielder...when told he would never make it above Double A with his skills, he began experimenting at other position before developing the knuckleball to which is one of only a handful of layers to use...known throughout MLB as one of the most community-mind individuals in the game today...in his final at-bat as a Pirate he hit a 420-foot solo homerun...Wakefield and his wife Stacy have two children, Trevor and Brianna and reside in Melbourne

RAYS v. WAKEFIELD in 2008

HOT	COLD
Evan Longoria, 3-6 (.500), 2B, RBI, 2BB, K, .625OBP, .667SLG, 1.292OPS	Carlos Pena, 4-30 (.133), 2B, HR, 3RBI, 6BB, 3K
Akinori Iwamura, 10-24 (.417), 3 2B, 2RBI, 5BB, K, .517OBP, .542SLG, 1.059OPS	Rocco Baldelli, 3-26 (.115), 4RBI, BB, 5K
Dioner Navarro, 5-15 (.333), 2B, 3RBI, BB, K, .375OBP, .400SLG, .775OPS	Cliff Floyd, 1-11 (.091), K
Carl Crawford, 25-82 (.305), 4 2B, 3 3B, 2HR, 10RBI, BB, K, .329OBP, .500SLG, .829OPS	

21 – ANDY SONNANSTINE

13-9, 4.38 ERA, 124 K, 32 starts

REG. 2008: 13-9, 4.38 ERA (94 ER/193.1 IP), 124 K in 32 GS
 CAREER: 19-19, 4.97 ERA (179 ER/324.0 IP) in 54 GS

2008 vs. BOS: 0-0, 0.00 ERA (0 ER/13.0 IP) in 2 GS
 CAREER vs. BOS: 1-1, 5.40 ERA (20 ER/33.1 IP) in 6 GS
 CAREER at TROPICANA FIELD: 8-9, 5.19 ERA (83 ER/144.0 IP) in 25 GS

Andy Sonnanstine has faced the Red Sox only two times in 2008 and it came in the month of September but he has been the most effective pitcher against Boston. Although he did not factor into the decision in either of his two starts, he pitched at least six strong innings in both starts and did not allow an earned run before turning the game over to the Tampa Bay bullpen. In his first start on September 10 at Fenway Park, Sonnanstine was matched up with Josh Beckett and outlasted the Sox Ace by pitching seven innings allowing just one unearned run while scattering four hits and striking out seven Sox batters on 96 pitches. A week later he was matched up again with Beckett but this time did not outlast him While Beckett went the distance, Sonnanstine left with a 1-1 tie after the six strong innings of work allowing just one unearned run while scattering three hits, walking two and striking out five on 93 pitches.

RED SOX v. SONNANSTINE in 2008

HOT	COLD
Jed Lowrie, 3-5 (.600), 2B, 2K, .600OBP, .800SLG, 1.400OPS	David Ortiz, 3-16 (.188), 2B, 3B, RBI, BB, 2K
Jason Varitek, 5-10 (.500), HR, RBI, 2BB, 3K, .583OBP, .800SLG, 1.383OPS	Kevin Youkilis, 1-12 (.083), 2B, RBI, 4K
J.D. Drew, 4-11 (.364), 2B, HR, 3RBI, K, .369OBP, .727SLG, 1.091OPS	Mark Kotsay, 0-5, 2K
Coco Crisp, 3-10 (.300), 2B, 2RBI, BB, 2K, .364OBP, .400SLG, .764OPS	

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Born: Andrew Michael Sonnanstine...March 18, 1983 Barberton, OH...Height: 6'3" Weight: 185lbs...Bats: Left, Throws: Right...MLB Debut: June 5, 2007...Attended Wadsworth High School in Wadsworth, OH, Class of 2001



THE 2008 WILD CARD CHAMPION BOSTON RED SOX

THE POSITION PLAYERS

#44 JASON RAYMOND BAY, LF

Born: September 20, 1978 Trail, British Columbia, Canada; Height: 6'2"; Weight: 205lbs; Bats: Right Throws: Right; College: Gonzaga; MLB Debut: May 24, 2003

.286BA 31HR 101RBI .895OPS

vs. RHP: 132-446 (.296), 26HR, 17 RBI OBP: .373 v. TB in 2008: AVG: 4-17 (.235) RBI: 4 OPS: 1.042
 vs. LHP: 33-131 (.252), 5HR, 17 RBI SLG: .522 HR: 3 BB: 1 SO: 8

#22 SEAN THOMAS CASEY, 1B

Born: July 2, 1974 Willingsboro, NJ; Height: 6'4"; Weight: 230lbs; Bats: Left Throws: Right; College: Richmond; MLB Debut: September 12, 1997

.322BA 0HR 17RBI 1SB .773OPS

vs. RHP: 12-37 (.324), 0HR, 3 RBI OBP: .381 v. TB in 2008: AVG: 2-7 (.286) RBI: 0 OPS: .730
 vs. LHP: 52-162 (.321), 0HR, 14 RBI SLG: .392 HR: 0 BB: 1 SO: 0

#30 KEVIN FORREST CASH, C

Born: December 6, 1977 Tampa, FL; Height: 6'0"; Weight: 200lbs; Bats: Right Throws: Right; College: Florida State; MLB Debut: September 6, 2002

.225BA 3HR 15RBI 0SB .647OPS

vs. RHP: 19-106 (.179), 3HR, 11 RBI OBP: .309 v. TB in 2008: AVG: 3-7 (.429) RBI: 1 OPS: .929
 vs. LHP: 13-36 (.361), 0HR, 4 RBI SLG: .338 HR: 0 BB: 2 SO: 3

#13 JOSE ALEXANDER CORA, IF

Born: October 18, 1975 San Juan, Puerto Rico; Height: 6'0"; Weight: 200lbs; Bats: Left Throws: Right; College: Miami; MLB Debut: June 7, 1998

.270BA 0HR 9RBI 1SB .720OPS

vs. RHP: 33-124 (.266), 0HR, 9 RBI OBP: .338 v. TB in 2008: AVG: 1-7 (.143) RBI: 0 OPS: .536
 vs. LHP: 8-28 (.286), 0HR, 0 RBI SLG: .461 HR: 0 BB: 1 SO: 0

#10 COVELLI LOYCE CRISP, CF

Born: November 1, 1979 Los Angeles, CA; Height: 6'0"; Weight: 180lbs; Bats: Both Throws: Right; College: Pierce JC, CA; MLB Debut: August 15, 2002

.283BA 7HR 41RBI 20SB .751OPS

vs. RHP: 74-266 (.278), 4HR, 27 RBI OBP: .371 v. TB in 2008: AVG: 11-34 (.324) RBI: 0 OPS: .797
 vs. LHP: 28-95 (.295), 3HR, 14 RBI SLG: .349 HR: 3 BB: 5 SO: 3

#7 DAVID JONATHAN DREW, RF

Born: November 20, 1975 Valdosta, GA; Height: 6'1"; Weight: 200lbs; Bats: Left Throws: Right; College: Florida State; MLB Debut: September 8, 1998

.280BA 19HR 64RBI 4SB .927OPS

vs. RHP: 82-294 (.279), 16HR, 47 RBI OBP: .408 v. TB in 2008: AVG: 12-37 (.324) RBI: 8 OPS: 1.095
 vs. LHP: 21-74 (.284), 3HR, 17 RBI SLG: .519 HR: 2 BB: 9 SO: 5



#46 JACOBY McCABE ELLSBURY, OF

Born: September 11, 1983 Madras, OR; Height: 6'1"; Weight: 185lbs; Bats: Left Throws: Left; College: Oregon State; MLB Debut: June 30, 2007

.280BA 9HR 47RBI 50SB .730OPS

vs. RHP: 114-415 (.275), 8HR, 36 RBI OBP: .336 v. TB in 2008: AVG: 19-65 (.292) RBI: 6 OPS: .716
 vs. LHP: 41-139 (.295), 1HR, 11 RBI SLG: .394 HR: 1 BB: 5 SO: 5

#11 MARK STEVEN KOTSAY, OF

Born: December 2, 1975 Whittier, CA; Height: 6'0"; Weight: 205lbs; Bats: Left Throws: Left; College: Cal St. Fullerton; MLB Debut: July 11, 1997

.276BA 6HR 49RBI 2SB .732OPS

vs. RHP: 80-278 (.288), 5HR, 36 RBI OBP: .329 v. TB in 2008: AVG: 3-19 (.158) RBI: 0 OPS: .431
 vs. LHP: 31-124 (.250), 1HR, 13 RBI SLG: .403 HR: 0 V BB: 3 SO: 5

#12 JED CARLSON LOWRIE, SS

Born: April 17, 1984 Salem, OR; Height: 6'0"; Weight: 180lbs; Bats: Both Throws: Right; College: Stanford; MLB Debut: April 15, 2008

.258BA 2HR 46RBI 1SB .739OPS

vs. RHP: 39-175 (.223), 1HR, 24 RBI OBP: .339 v. TB in 2008: AVG: 5-28 (.179) RBI: 0 OPS: .575
 vs. LHP: 27-80 (.338), 1HR, 22 RBI SLG: .400 HR: 0 BB: 8 SO: 9

#34 DAVID AMERICO ORTIZ, DH

Born: November 18, 1975 Santo Domingo, DR; Height: 6'4"; Weight: 230lbs; Bats: Left Throws: Left; MLB Debut: September 2, 1997

.264BA 23HR 23RBI 1SB .876OPS

vs. RHP: 87-312 (.279), 18HR, 70 RBI OBP: .369 v. TB in 2008: AVG: 9-37 (.243) RBI: 11 OPS: .895
 vs. LHP: 23-104 (.221), 5HR, SLG: .507 HR: 3 BB: 3 SO: 4

#15 DUSTIN LUIS PEDROIA, 2B

Born: August 17, 1983 Woodland, CA; Height: 5'9"; Weight: 170lbs; Bats: Right Throws: Right; College: ASU; MLB Debut: August 22, 2006

.326BA 17HR 83RBI 20SB .869OPS

vs. RHP: 162-490 (.331), 11HR, 67 RBI OBP: .376 v. TB in 2008: AVG: 21-71 (.296) RBI: 10 OPS: .829
 vs. LHP: 51-163 (.313), 6HR, 16 RBI SLG: .493 HR: 1 BB: 6 SO: 6

#28 DAVID WADE ROSS, C

Born: March 19, 1977 Bainbridge, GA; Height: 6'2"; Weight: 240lbs; Bats: Right Throws: Right; College: Florida; MLB Debut: June 28, 2002

.225BA 3HR 13RBI 0SB .721OPS

vs. RHP: 19-79 (.241), 2HR, 7 RBI OBP: .369 v. TB in 2008: AVG: 0-3 (.000) RBI: 0 OPS: .000
 vs. LHP: 13-63 (.206), 1HR, 6 RBI SLG: .352 HR: 0 BB: 0 SO: 1

#33 JASON ANDREW VARITEK, C

Born: April 11, 1972 Rochester, MI; Height: 6'2"; Weight: 220lbs; Bats: Both Throws: Right; College: Georgia Tech; MLB Debut: July 31, 1997

.220BA 13HR 43RBI 0SB .672OPS

vs. RHP: 66-328 (.201), 8HR, 29 RBI OBP: .313 v. TB in 2008: AVG: 9-54 (.167) RBI: 8 OPS: .505
 vs. LHP: 27-95 (.284) 5HR, 14RBI SLG: .359 HR: 1 BB: 3 SO: 23



#51 GILBERT ARNULFO VELAZQUEZ, IF

Born: October 17, 1979 Los Angeles, CA; Height: 6'3"; Weight: 190lbs; Bats: Right Throws: Right; MLB Debut: September 25, 2008

.125BA OHR 1RBI OSB .250OPS

vs. RHP: 1-7 (.143), 0HR, 1 RBI OBP: .125 v. TB in 2008: AVG: --- RBI: --- OPS: ---
 vs. LHP: 0-1 (.000), 0HR, 0 RBI SLG: .125 HR: --- BB: --- SO: ---

#20 KEVIN EDMUND YOUKILIS, 1B

Born: March 15, 1979 Cincinnati, OH; Height: 6'1"; Weight: 220lbs; Bats: Right Throws: Right; College: Cincinnati; MLB Debut: May 15, 2004

.312BA 29HR 115RBI 3SB .959OPS

vs. RHP: 138-434 (.318), 22HR, 87 RBI OBP: .390 v. TB in 2008: AVG: 13-56 (.232) RBI: 14 OPS: .810
 vs. LHP: 30-104 (.288) 7HR, 28 RBI SLG: .569 HR: 2 BB: 13 SO: 11

RED SOX BATTERS v. RAYS PITCHERS

WHO'S HOT



J.D. Drew

12-37 (.324), 4DB, 1TR, 2HR, 24TB, 8RBI, 9 BB,
 5K, 1SB .447OBP, .649SLG, 1.095OPS



Coco Crisp

11-34 (.324), 2DB, 13TB, 3RBI, 5BB, 3K, .415
 OBP, .382SLG, .797OPS



Dustin Pedroia

21-71 (.296), 6DB, 1TR, 32TB, 10RBI, 6BB, 6K,
 1SB, .378OBP, .451SLG, .829OPS

WHO'S NOT



Jason Varitek

9-54 (.167), 2DB, 1HR, 14TB, 8RBI, 3BB, 23K,
 .246OBP, .259SLG, .505OPS



Mark Kotsay

3-19 (.158), 3TB, 3BB, 5K, .273OBP, .158SLG,
 .431OPS



Alex Cora

1-7 (.143), DB, 2TB, BB, .250OBP, .286SLG,
 .536OPS



THE 2008 WILD CARD CHAMPION BOSTON RED SOX

BULLPEN

#36 PAUL GREGORY BIRD, RP

Born: December 3, 1970 Louisville, KY; Height: 6'1"; Weight: 190lbs; Bats: Right Throws: Right; College: Louisiana State; MLB Debut: July 28, 1995

11-12 4.60ERA 82K 0SV 1.32WHIP

#17 MANUEL DELCARMEN, RP

Born: February 16, 1982 Boston, MA; Height: 6'2"; Weight: 205lbs; Bats: Right Throws: Right; MLB Debut: July 26, 2005

1-2 3.27ERA 72K 2SV 1.12WHIP

#48 JAVIER ALFONSO LOPEZ, RP

Born: July 11, 1977 San Juan, Puerto Rico; Height: 6'4"; Weight: 220lbs; Bats: Left Throws: Left; MLB Debut: April 1, 2003

2-0 2.43 ERA 38K 1.35WHIP

#63 JUSTIN DANIEL MASTERSON, RP

Born: March 22, 1985 Kingston, Jamaica; Height: 6'6"; Weight: 250lbs; Bats: Right Throws: Right; College: San Diego State; MLB Debut: April 24, 2008

6-5 3.16ERA 68K 1.22WHIP

#37 HIDEKI OKAJIMA, RP

Born: December 25, 1975 Kyoto, Japan; Height: 6'1"; Weight: 195lbs; Bats: Left Throws: Left; MLB Debut: April 2, 2007

3-2 2.61ERA 60K 1SV 1.16WHIP

#58 JONATHAN ROBERT PAPELBON, RP

Born: November 23, 1980 Baton Rouge, LA; Height: 6'4"; Weight: 225lbs; Bats: Right Throws: Right; College: Mississippi State; MLB Debut: July 31, 2005

5-4 2.34ERA 77K 41SV 0.95WHIP



THE 2008 AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST CHAMPION TAMPA BAY RAYS

Background on the Tampa Bay Rays from the Rays Public Relations department

AN EXORCISM:

Since dropping the “Devil” from their nickname in November, 2007, the Rays became the fourth team to have finished the next season in first place and first team since the Anaheim Angels became the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim a few years ago. Although the Angels lost to the White Sox that season in the ALCS, other teams who have made changes to their nicknames have succeeded quite well including the Boston Red Sox.

- The old time New York Giants changed their names from the New York Gothams and went from a 62-50 team to an 85-27 team in 1885.
- The Chicago Cubs became the Cubs in 1903 after being the Orphans for awhile and went from an 68-69 team to a 82-56 team that season.
- When Philadelphia changed their team name from the Quakers to the Phillies in 1890, they also improved on the field. They went from being one game under .500 (63-64) to 25-games over .500 (78-53).

Other professional franchises who benefited from a name-change:

- 2006-2007 Anaheim Ducks – The Anaheim Mighty Ducks were originally just a promotional expansion promoting the 1994 Disney Movie “The Mighty Ducks” starring Emilio Estevez and Joshua Jackson, but once the sale of the team from Disney went through just before the season the Mighty Ducks changed their name to just the Ducks and ended up winning the Stanley Cup.
- Tennessee Titans – When the Oilers moved out of Houston they did not right away change their name but when they did choose the moniker “Titans” they made it to the 1999 Super Bowl where they lost to the St. Louis Rams.
- The Denver Nuggets changed their name from the Rockets following a dismal 37-67 1973-1974 season. Their first year as Nuggets, 1974-1975 they improved to 65-19, reaching the 60 win plateau for the first time in franchise history.

FIRST PLACE:

- The Rays were the first team other than Boston or New York to win the American League East Division Title since the Baltimore Orioles won the division in 1997
- Beginning July 18, the Rays were in first place the last 75 days of the regular season

SOME FUNKY MATH: 9=8!

- Rays manager Joe Maddon was thinking about how he could tell his players that they could contend in the 2008 season and he came up with 9=8. It is really simple and essentially means “the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.”
 - Breaking it down further were Maddon’s team goals for the season:
 - Nine more wins out of the defense than last year
 - Nine more wins out of the offense
 - Nine more wins out of the pitching
 - Leads to 27 more wins than their 66 wins last year would total 93 and get them into the post-season
 - Basically it’s very similar to Bill Belichick’s team first motto he implemented with the Patriots in 2001

YOUNG GUNS:

The Tampa Bay Rays have the 9th youngest rotation to make the playoffs and first since the 1986 New York Mets with an average age of 24.6 years old and a mode of 24 (Scott Kazmir, Matt Garza and Edwin Jackson) – youngest of the five. The Rays 2008 Ace James Shield is the oldest at 26 while Andy Sonnanstine is 25.

DIVISION SERIES FLASH BACK:

- Rays hit .297 (41-138) in the series and outscored the White Sox 21-13 – Dioner Navarro led the way with a .400 average (6-15) followed by Akinori Iwamura (.389, 7-18)
- James Shields, Scott Kazmir and Andy Sonnanstine all won their post-season debuts
- B.J. Upton and Evan Longoria both had 2 homerun games in the series becoming the first set of teammates under the age of 25 to have multi-homer games in a single post season
- Longoria became the second player ever to homer in his first two post-season at bats, he joins MIN Gary Gaetti in 1987 and at the age of 22 he became the 3rd youngest player in history to hit more than one homerun in a post-season game (Andrew Jones with the Braves, 19, in 1996 v. NYY; Tony Kubek, 20, in 1957)

SERIES PLAY:

- The Rays won 34 series and swept 10 including four against post-season teams: Red Sox twice, Angels and Cubs...Tampa Bay has only lost 5 of their last 44 series



THE 2008 AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST CHAMPION TAMPA BAY RAYS

MEET THE RAYS

Unlike the Los Angeles Angels in the Division Series, the Tampa Bay Rays do have the knack for coming up with the timely hit. It is mostly how they have beaten the majority of their opponents, including the Red Sox this year. The Rays are not going to out-slug their opponents and as long as they are in close games they always have the opportunity to pull out the victory with guys like Carl Crawford and B.J. Upton at the top of their line up while guys like probable Rookie of the Year Evan Longoria and Carlos Pena driving them in from the four and five spots of the order.

PITCHERS

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht	Wt	Bats	Throws	College	Year	2008 Sal.
50	Grant Balfour	RP	6-2	192	R	R	None	7	N/A
<i>Born: Grant Robert Balfour...December 30, 1977 Sydney, Australia...graduated from William Clark High School in Kerryville, New South Wales, Australia...enjoys swimming and working out</i>									
53	Chad Bradford	RP	6-5	203	R	R	Southern Mississippi	10	\$3,666,667
<i>Born: Chadwick Lee Bradford...September 14, 1994 Jackson, Mississippi...resides in Raymond, MS with wife Jenny, son Keller (1/8/95) and daughter Lanie (11/10/99)</i>									
22	Matt Garza	SP	6-4	205	R	R	Fresno State	2	\$404,600
<i>Born: Matthew Scott Albidrez-Garza...November 26, 1983 Selma, California...graduated from Washington Union High School (CA) in 2001</i>									
39	J.P. Howell	RP	6-0	145	L	L	Texas	4	\$397,000
<i>Born: James Phillip Howell...April 25, 1983 Modesto, California...graduated from Jesuit (Carmichael, CA) High in 2001...was 10-0 with a 0.09 ERA as a senior and named the Cal-Hi Sports Player of the Year</i>									
19	Scott Kazmir	SP	6-0	190	L	L	None	4	\$3,785,000
<i>Born: Scott Edward Kazmir...January 24, 1984...played on the 2001 USA Junior National team with current teammates B.J. Upton and J.P Howell</i>									
57	Trever Miller	RP	6-3	200	R	L	None	12	\$1,600,000
<i>Born: Trever Douglas Miller...May 29, 1973 Louisville, Kentucky...resides in Land O'Lakes, FL with wife Pari, son Tyler and triplet daughters McKenzie, Grace and Elizabeth</i>									
14	David Price	SP	6-6	225	L	L	None	R	N/A
<i>Born: David Taylor Price...August 26, 1985 Nashville, Tennessee...two sport star in baseball and basketball at Blackman High School in New Mexico with a 0.53ERA and 151 strike outs</i>									
33	James Shields	SP	6-4	214	R	R	None	2	\$1,000,000
<i>Born: James Anthony Shields...Newhall, California...offered full scholarship to play baseball at LSU...Ranked 16th in Baseball America in 2000</i>									
21	Andy Sonnanstine	SP	6-3	185	L	R	Kent State	1	\$395,800
<i>Born: Andrew Michael Sonnanstine...March 18, 1983 Barberton, Ohio...graduated from Wadsworth High School in Wadsworth, OH</i>									
35	Dan Wheeler	RP	6-3	222	R	R	Central Arizona	9	\$2,875,000
<i>Born: Daniel Michael Wheeler...December 10, 1977 Warwick, Rhode Island...graduated from Pilgrim High School (RI) in 1995...resides in Seminole, FL with wife Stephanie and son Gabriel</i>									



THE 2008 AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST CHAMPION TAMPA BAY RAYS

MEET THE RAYS (cont.)

POSITION PLAYERS

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht	Wt	Bats	Throws	College	Year	2008 Sal.
16	Willy Aybar	SS	5-11	200	B	R	None	2	\$401,200
<i>Born: Willy Del Jesus Aybar...March 9, 1983...younger brother of Angels shortstop Erick Aybar</i>									
5	Rocco Baldelli	OF	6-4	200	R	R	None	4	\$2,250,000
<i>Born: Rocco Daniel Baldelli...September 25, 1981 Woonsocket, Rhode Island...2004 Inductee into the Italian-American Hall of Fame...nominated for 2006 Tony Conigliaro Award...high-jumped 6'2" and ran 5.5 in 55-yard dash in high school</i>									
8	Jason Bartlett	SS	6-0	185	R	R	Oklahoma	4	\$416,600
<i>Born: Jason Alan Bartlett...October 30, 1979 Mountain View, California...graduated from St. Mary's High School (CA) in 1997</i>									
13	Carl Crawford	LF	6-2	215	L	L	None	6	\$5,375,000
<i>Born: Carl Demonte Crawford...August 5, 1981 Houston, Texas...three sport All-Star, baseball, basketball, football at Jefferson Davis High School in Houston</i>									
15	Cliff Floyd	DH	6-4	230	L	R	None	15	\$2,750,000
<i>Born: Cornelius Clifford Floyd...December 5, 1972 Chicago, Illinois...as a senior at Thornwood High School, he led the baseball team to the State Championship and the basketball team to the Sectional Finals</i>									
26	Gabe Gross	RF	6-3	222	L	R	Auburn	4	\$414,000
<i>Born: Gabriel Jordan Gross...October 21, 1979 Baltimore, Maryland...played baseball and football at Auburn...as a Quarterback, threw for 1,222 yards and 7 touchdowns in six starts in 1998</i>									
41	Michel Hernandez	C	6-0	211	R	R	None	1	N/A
<i>Born: Michel Hernandez...August 12, 1978 Havana, Cuba...fled Cuba in October, 1996...star catcher for Havana Industriales of the Cuban National League, same club that produced Orlando Hernandez</i>									
32	Eric Hinske	OF	6-2	235	L	R	Akansas	6	\$800,000
<i>Born: Eric Scott Hinske...August 5, 1977 Menasha, Wisconsin...huge fan of the Green Bay Packers and attended the 2007 NFC Championship game between Green Bay and the New York Giants earlier this year</i>									
1	Akinori Iwamura	2B	5-9	176	L	R	None	1	\$2,400,000
<i>Born: Akinori Iwamura...February 9, 1979 Uwajima, Japan...nickname in Japan was "Gun" because the written Japanese character for "IWA" could also be pronounced "Gun"...he is a 12 handicap</i>									
3	Evan Longoria	3B	6-2	210	R	R	Cal St. Long Beach	R	N/A
<i>Born: Evan Michael Longoria...October 7, 1985 Downey, California...graduated from St. John Bosco High (CA) in 2003 where he was a four year letterman in baseball...had no college scholarship offers to play baseball</i>									
30	Dioner Navarro	C	5-9	205	B	R	None	4	\$412,500
<i>Born: Dioner Faviu Navarro...February 9, 1984 Caracas, Venezuela...resides in Riverview, FL with wife Sherley, son Dioner, Jr. and step-son Gerson (8)...nicknamed "Little Pudge" after Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez</i>									
23	Carlos Pena	1B	6-2	215	L	L	Northeastern	7	\$6,000,000
<i>Born: Carlos Felipe Pena...May 17, 1978 Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic...from Haverhill, MA...graduated from Haverhill High School in 1995</i>									
38	Fernando Perez	OF	6-1	195	B	R	Columbia	R	N/A
<i>Born: Fernando Perez...April 23, 1983 Elizabeth, New Jersey</i>									
2	B.J. Upton	CF	6-3	185	R	R	None	3	\$412,100
<i>Born: Melvin Emmanuel Upton...August 21, 1984 Norfolk, Virginia...older brother of Diamondbacks' OF Justin Upton...nickname comes from his father Manny who is called "Bossman," B.J. is "Bossman Junior"</i>									
18	Ben Zobrist	3B	6-3	200	B	R	Dallas Baptist	2	\$395,800
<i>Born: Benjamin Thomas Zobrist...May 26, 1981 Eureka, Illinois...resides in Nashville, TN with wife Julianna who is an accomplished singer and sang the National Anthem at a Rays game in 2007</i>									



THE 2008 AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST CHAMPION TAMPA BAY RAYS

RAYS BATTERS v. RED SOX PITCHERS

WHO'S HOT



Willy Aybar

12-29 (.414), 2DB, 1TR, 1HR, 19TB, 5RBI, 3BB,
3K, .471OBP, .655SLG, 1.126OPS



Akinori Iwamura

22-69 (.319), 2DB, 1TR, 4HR, 38TB, 8RBI, 7BB,
10K, 2SB, .385OBP, .551SLG, .935OPS



Carlos Pena

16-51 (.314), 5DB, 4HR, 33TB, 12RBI, 10BB, 15K,
.429OBP, .647SLG, 1.076OPS

WHO'S NOT



Cliff Floyd

3-24 (.125), 3TB, 1RBI, 3BB, 9K, .276OBP,
.125SLG, .401OPS



Rocco Baldelli

1-8 (.125), 1TB, 5K, .125OBP, .125SLG, .250OPS



Jonny Gomes

1-15 (.067), 1TB, 2RBI, 2BB, 7K, .222OBP,
.067SLG, .289 OPS



BOSTON RED SOX v. TAMPA BAY RAYS

THE MATCH UPS

FIRST BASE:



CARLOS PENA – MARK KOTSAY

With Mike Lowell off the Red Sox ALCS roster, it makes hole in the Red Sox roster. Not only are moving Kevin Youkilis back across the diamond to his former stomping grounds. Not saying Youkilis has not done an admirable job in Lowell's absence because he has but you taking 115 hits, 17 homeruns and 73 RBIs out of Boston's line up and replace it with the six homeruns, 49 RBIs and 162 total bases of .276 fifth outfielder Mark Kotsay. On the other side of the field, away from a poor batting average, Carlos Pena has been everything the Rays asked for in a clean up hitter and first baseman. Not only did hit 31 homeruns but he also managed a .377 on-base percentage, a .494 slugging percentage and a .871 OPS plus a steady glove at first base. Not bad for the former Northeastern Huskie who under performed in Texas a few years ago. **EDGE: Rays**



SECOND BASE:



AKINORI IWAMURA – DUSTIN PEDROIA

A contender for the American League MVP Award in his second year in Major League Baseball against a .274 hitter with 6 homeruns and 48 RBIs? This is a no brainer. Along with Kevin Youkilis, Dustin Pedroia has been an integral part of the Red Sox during the 2008 season. Yes he was only 1-for-16 in the ALDS but he has hit at every level of baseball he has played since Little League, what makes you think he will stop hitting now? His .326 regular season average is second only to Minnesota Twins catcher Joe Mauer's .328 average. The "Little Pony" as he is affectionately called also hit 17 homeruns and drove in 83 RBIs. **EDGE: Red Sox**





SHORTSTOP:



JASON BARTLETT – JED LOWRIE

Since Jed Lowrie won Game Four of the ALDS with his dribbler past the dive of Los Angeles Angels second baseman Howie Kendrick to score Jason Bay in the bottom of the ninth to advance the Sox to Championship series, the Sox shortstop has blossomed in the eyes of Red Sox Nation. Lowrie has the potential to be a top player in the game but as of right now he is a bottom of the order hitter with little power and little speed. In 81 games at the big league level in 2008 the rookie shortstop has hit .258 with two homeruns and drove in 46 RBIs, decent numbers for a number seven, eight or nine hitter, which is what Jason Bartlett provided for the Rays. Rounding out the Tampa Bay line up Barlett had a respectable season average of .286 with one homerun and 37 RBIs while maintaining a .329 On-Base Percentage and .361 Slugging Percentage. **EDGE: EVEN**



THIRD BASE:



EVAN LONGORIA – KEVIN YOUKILIS

Evan Longoria is going to be a household name for years to come but we are talking about the here and now. Kevin Youkilis has improved every year since he came up to the big leagues in 2004. Four years ago, no one was thinking that this Jewish kid would be in a candidate for the AL MVP four years later with a .312 batting average, 29 homeruns and 115 RBIs while maintaining a .390 On-Base Percentage. Before landing himself on the disabled list with a fractured wrist at the beginning of August, Longoria was running away with the Rookie of the Year Award and still is the leading candidate to win the award. The Rays rookie third baseman had nice first season in the majors hitting .272 with 27 homeruns and 85 RBIs while maintaining a .343 On-Base Percentage and a hitting for power with a .531 slugging percentage. **EDGE: Red Sox**





LEFT FIELD:



Carl Crawford – Jason Bay

Jason Bay has the edge on offense. Carl Crawford has the edge on defense. Speed in the outfield is very important for an outfielder – even an corner outfielder. With Crawford and Upton in the outfield, there are not too many balls that can drop in between them. On the offensive side of the ball is where Jason Bay shines, between Pittsburgh and Boston in 2008, Bay has hit .286 with 31 homeruns and 101 RBIs for a .522 slugging percentage while maintaining a .373 On-Base Percentage. After missing a few games due to injury as well as suspension, Crawford had a .273 average, a .319 On-Base Percentage, .400 slugging percentage as well as eight homeruns, 57 RBIs and 25 stolen bases from the lead off position in the Rays order. **EDGE: Red Sox**



CENTER FIELD:



B.J. Upton – Jacoby Ellsbury

Jacoby Ellsbury led the league with 50 stolen bases but American League East rival B.J. Upton was right behind him with 44 stolen bases. Upton is a former infielder turned outfielder but do not think that has hindered the Rays centerfielder. Because of his experience as infielder and his comfort level going back on the ball, he is able to play a shallow centerfield and take would-be base hits from bloopers away from the opposition. His 2008 season was a disappointment based on a 2007 season that saw him hit .300 with 24 homeruns while driving in 82 base runners. In 2008, Upton hit .273 with nine homeruns while driving in 67 runners almost identical to the numbers Ellsbury put up from the leadoff spot of Sox line up, .280 with nine homeruns and 47 runs batted in. But Upton has been in the league longer so the edge goes to the Rays center fielder. **EDGE: Rays**





RIGHT FIELD:



Gabe Gross – J.D. Drew

J.D. Drew carried the Red Sox for the early portion of the season while David Ortiz was absent from the line up with a wrist injury. During June, he was named Player of the Month with a .337 batting average (27-92), seven doubles, three triples, 12 homeruns, 27 RBIs and a season high 1.309 OPS in 26 games. On top of that, Drew is an exceptional and proved once again in 2008 he can cover the vast Fenway Park right field as well as show off his gun with six outfield assists. He improved upon his mediocre 2007 statistics in nearly every category except RBIs which remained the same at 64 but that can partially be accounted for his absence from the line up in August and September due to a herniated disk in his back. **EDGE: Red Sox**



CATCHER:



DIONER NAVARRO – JASON VARITEK

Jason Varitek's reputation around the league is that he is the best catcher in baseball to call a game. His preparation for any game, whether it is a game seven of the World Series of game 124 is unfathomable. He puts so much time and effort into the starting pitcher the day of game that his offense gets the short but that is okay by Varitek, Terry Francona and the Red Sox Nation because they all know how much the pitchers rely on him behind the plate. How can you argue with a guy who has caught four no-hitters in his 12 year career? But his offense has steadily decreased over the past years and in 2008 he hit .220 with just 13 homeruns, 43 RBIs and an On-Base Percentage of .313 while his AL East counterpart in Tampa hit .295 with seven homeruns and 54 RBIs while maintaining an on-base percentage of .349 and a slugging percentage of .407. But none of the hitting statistics of catcher can compare to the experience Varitek has in the post-season. **EDGE: Red Sox**





DESIGNATED HITTER:



CLIFF FLOYD – DAVID ORTIZ

Despite a nagging wrist injury that kept David Ortiz out for the entire month of June, Ortiz still managed to hit 23 homeruns and drive in 89 RBIs while maintaining a slugging percentage of .507. Contrary to what many believe the trade of Manny Ramirez hindered Ortiz. He was no longer seeing the pitches he once saw because Ramirez was no longer hitting behind him. Giving Youkilis all the respect in the world, he is no Manny Ramirez. But Ortiz still takes the edge over Cliff Floyd who ended the regular season with a .268 average, 11 homeruns, 39 RBIs, a slugging percentage under .500 (.455) and a .804 OPS. **EDGE: Red Sox**



MANAGER:



JOE MADDON – TERRY FRANCONA

Without a doubt, Joe Maddon is the 2008 Manager of the Year. He has taken the perennial last place Tampa Bay Rays and turned them into division champions with a 97-65 record. No one thought they were for real throughout the year and everyone was expecting the Rays to fade as the year progressed but they did not. Now here is the ironic part. Back in 2004 Maddon was the leading candidate for the Red Sox managerial opening after the Sox fired Grady Little after the 2003 ALCS. But the job went to Terry Francona who has not disappointed in his tenure as Sox manager, appearing in the post-season four out of the five years and was manager and bringing home two championships to the City of Boston. The edge goes on post-season experience alone. **EDGE: Red Sox**





DAVE CHALMER'S ALCS FORECAST

Dave Chalmer's Gives Us his Three Keys to a Red Sox Series Victory in ALCS against the Rays

1. STARTING PITCHERS

Daisuke Matsuzaka, Josh Beckett, Jon Lester and Tim Wakefield HAVE TO go deep. By now we know what we will get from Lester, arguably, at this time, the best pitcher in baseball. However, here we are in October and we are not sure what we will get from Matsuzaka, Beckett and Wakefield. All are capable of shutting down the Rays but who will show up on any given night. They need to stay away from the walks and keep the pitch counts low.

2. THE BULLPEN

With questions in starting pitching, the bullpen becomes even more important. By there should not be any question about the closer. In the pre-game set-up check box, closer is checked off. But every one else is a question. Manny Delcarmen has show recent consistency. Hideki Okajima and Justin Masterson can get the job done but not without drama. Javier Lopez is a one or two batter set-up who is also very capable of getting getting the job done in the latter innings of the game. Hopefully we do not see a lot of Paul Byrd in long relief because that means the starters have failed.

3. ELLSBURY AND PEDROIA

Jacoby Ellsbury did very well in the ALDS. He was 6-for-18 against the Angels with three doubles, three stolen bases, two runs scored and six RBIs. Dustin Pedroia was a mere 1-for-17 with his lone hit coming on an RBI double off the Green Monster in Game Four give the Sox the 2-0 lead in the fifth. Pedroia needs to get hot again because the offense can only go as far as the top of the order will take them. If the table setters get on base we know what David Ortiz and Kevin Youkilis can do.