

YES!!!



GLOBE STAFF PHOTO/STAN GROSSFELD

The Red Sox stormed the Busch Stadium field to celebrate their commanding march to the world championship. The Sox did not trail for a single inning of the four-game sweep of the Cardinals.

Red Sox complete sweep, win first Series since 1918

WORLD SERIES

SPECIAL SECTION

Police response

Officers block access to Lansdowne Street, the scene of last week's confrontation, and police equipped with riot gear and smoke canisters push crowds away from Fenway Park and out of Kenmore Square. B3.

The next phase

The city is at last about to learn the answer to the question of "What will Boston do if the Red Sox ever win the World Series?" C4.

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GLOBE STAFF PHOTO/EVAN RICHMAN

Red Sox fans celebrated last night's World Series victory at the Who's on First? bar near Fenway Park.

For multitudes, years of torment end in bliss

By Raja Mishra  
GLOBE STAFF

At last. As first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz snagged the final out, citizens of Red Sox Nation convulsed. They wept. They exhaled. They exalted. Smiles blossomed. Hugging erupted. Curses were dismissed, longing was satisfied, and memories made.

Euphoria, joy, or madness — call it what you will. After 86 years, Red Sox Nation got deliverance.

In South Boston, fireworks lit the sky as revelers spilled into the streets amid a cacophony of car horns. In Jamaica Plain, grown men fell to their knees.

The streets around Fenway Park clogged with young people; intimate celebrations unfolded in pubs, on triple-decker porches, in bodegas, and in thousands of living rooms in this victory-starved region.

It was collective catharsis, millions riveted by nine men playing a boy's game: from the South End to the North End,

Provincetown to the Berkshires, Connecticut to Maine, and all the far-flung outposts of New England.

As the victorious images from St. Louis beamed onto televisions, crackled on radios, and lit up computer screens, fans here, in a million different ways, screamed aloud: at last.

"I've cheered them on for 80 years, for 90 years. But I'm telling you, in all my years, this team was the most exciting one," said Leonard Iannarone, 93, of Win-

JOY, Page B3

By Dan Shaughnessy  
GLOBE STAFF

ST. LOUIS — They did it for the old folks in Presque Isle, Maine, and White River Junction, Vt. They did it for the baby boomers in North Conway, N.H., and Groton, Mass. They did it for the kids in Central Falls, R.I., and Putnam, Conn.

While church bells rang in small New England towns and horns honked on the crowded streets of the Hub, the 2004 Red Sox last night won the 100th World Series, completing a four-game sweep of the St. Louis Cardinals with a 3-0 victory on the strength of seven innings of three-hit pitching by Derek Lowe. Playing 1,042 miles from Fenway Park, the Sox won it all for the first time in 86 long and frustrating seasons.

"This is like an alternate reality," said Sox owner John W. Henry, soaked in champagne (Mount Pleasant, 2003 Brut Imperial). "All of our fans waited their entire lives for this."

True. New England and a sprawling Nation of Sox fans can finally exhale. The Red Sox are World

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Victory transforms a region's identity

By Thomas Farragher  
GLOBE STAFF

New England danced under an eclipse-reddened moon early today, toasting a baseball championship whose elusiveness since World War I had become a regional badge of futility, worn by four generations.

"I've seen man walk on the moon. I've seen the space shuttle break up in the sky. I've seen great tragedy," said David Kruh of Reading, who wrote the stage musical "The Curse of the Bambino," about the travails of the Red Sox. "And now, we have this moment of unadulterated joy. . . . This experience will never happen again."

And New England, where baseball is king, will never be the same.

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