

[On the Cover]



JESSICA RINALDI / REUTERS

RED WINGIN' IT: Detroit forward Dallas Drake, left, celebrates his goal with Mikaël Samuelsson against the Dallas Stars in Game 6 of the NHL's Western Conference final last night. Detroit won 4-1.

[Short Stops]

Tennis needs scrutiny: report

[LONDON] Tennis is "potentially at a crossroads," an independent review panel says. It found 45 matches merit investigation due to irregular betting and offered recommendations. The panel's report, prompted by suspicions surrounding a match last year involving Nikolay Davydenko, was released yesterday by the International Tennis Federation, the ATP, the WTA Tour and the four Grand Slams.

Canadian paddlers 12-for-12

[MONTREAL] For the first time, Canada will race in all 12 sprint canoe and kayak races at the Olympics. The final three qualified Sunday for Beijing: Kristin Gauthier of Ottawa and Mylanie Barre of Lac-Beauport, Que., women's kayak doubles 500-metre; Karen Furneaux of Waverley, N.S., women's kayak singles 500; Andrew Russell of Dartmouth, N.S., and Gabriel Beauchesne-Sevigny of Trois-Rivières, Que., canoe doubles 500.

Wheelchair athlete cleared

[TORONTO] Canadian wheelchair racer Jeff Adams has been vindicated. The six-time world champion from Toronto has been cleared of an anti-doping infraction by the Court of Arbitration for Sport in a unanimous decision, says his lawyer, Tim Danson. Adams was suspended for two years for testing positive for cocaine in 2006. He argued the drug got into his system via a contaminated catheter.

Gatineau loss is Chiefs' gain

[KITCHENER] Shawn Matthias scored the winner and added a short-handed goal to pace the Belleville Bulls to a 6-3 win over the Gatineau Olympiques at the Memorial Cup last night. Gatineau's loss was the Spokane Chiefs' gain as the Western Hockey League champions clinched the bye to Sunday's final game with a 2-0 record after victories over host Kitchener and Belleville.

Lester pitches no-hitter

[BOSTON] Jon Lester can add pitching a no-hitter to his already amazing list of accomplishments.

The 24-year-old lefty, who survived cancer to pitch the clincher of Boston's 2007 World Series victory, shut down Kansas City 7-0 last night for the first no-hitter in the majors this season.

"Really, words can't describe it right now," Lester said.

Lester (3-2) allowed just two baserunners, walking Billy Butler in the second inning and Esteban German to open the ninth. He struck out nine, including Alberto Callaspo to end the game.

Lester and manager Terry Francona met for a long, hard embrace when it was over.

"He just said he was proud of me," Lester said. "I've been through a lot the last couple of years. He's been like a second dad to me."

Centre-fielder Jacoby Ellsbury made a diving catch of Jose Guillen's line drive to end the fourth — the best defensive play of the game. Lester also got help from first baseman Kevin Youkilis, who made a nice scoop on shortstop Julio Lugo's throw after David DeJesus hit a grounder in the third.

The fans really got into it for the



BRIAN SNYDER / REUTERS

PITCHING GEM. Jon Lester celebrates after throwing a no-hitter against Kansas City at Fenway Park in Boston last night.

final out of the seventh, rising to their feet when Lester fanned Guillen on a 93 m.p.h. fastball. They remained standing for the entire ninth inning, flashes popping, screaming at full throat when defensive replacement Callaspo fell behind 0-2.

Lester pumped both fists in the

air after Callaspo reached for a high and outside 1-2 fastball.

Lester jumped into catcher Jason Varitek's arms before they were both mobbed by teammates running out of the dugout. After Lester hugged Francona, the pitcher tipped his hat to the Fenway Park fans for one more big cheer.

Boston's last no-hitter was pitched by Clay Buchholz, who shut down Baltimore in just his second major league start last Sept. 1. Mel Parnell was the last Red Sox lefty to throw a no-hitter, beating the Chicago White Sox on July 14, 1956.

The Associated Press

Japanese-born Kawai fulfils hockey dream

[KITCHENER] Gatineau Olympiques' defenceman Takuma Kawai may be Japanese, but he's sporting a very Canadian gap in his front teeth.

Kawai moved away from his home and family in Eniwa, Japan, at 15 to pursue his dream of playing hockey in Canada. The 19-year-old is living that dream to the fullest at the Memorial Cup.

"I always wanted to come to Canada and play. When I was little I watched NHL games on TV," he said yesterday.

Japanese-Canadians in hockey are common enough. But media relations personnel from the Canadian Hockey League were scratching their heads to come up with players who were born in Japan and played major junior hockey. Suffice to say, Kawai is a rarity.

"I think I'm the first Japanese player to play major junior. I know there's half-Japanese, half-Canadian players, but I've never heard of a Japanese-born player."

The 5-foot-11, 190-pounder is actually a forward who was moved to defence in February.

The Canadian Press