Yankees Beat Red Sox To Spoil Fenway Centennial Celebration

Old-Timers Fete Oldest Of Parks On 100th B-Day

BOSTON (AP) — For one more afternoon, Yaz had the Fenway fans cheering, Pedro had them celebrating and Johnny Pesky brought tears to their eyes.

Scenes from Fenway Park's first 100 years played out on the major leagues' oldest ballfield again on Friday, when the Boston Red Sox celebrated its centennial by welcoming more than 200 former players and coaches back onto its landmark lawn.

In a pregame ceremony before their game against the New York Yankees, 100 years to the day before they opened the building against that very rival, the Red Sox held a birthday party for the only ballpark in the majors ever to last this long. The team invited back every living player and coach in franchise history, and more than 200 took them up on the offer.

"It was awesome being able to see all the guys that have played throughout the years," said Adrian Gonzalez, who spent part of the day getting to know Mo Vaughn, one of his predecessors as a Red Sox first baseman. "For me to be able to say thank you for all the guys who paved the way, it was pretty special."

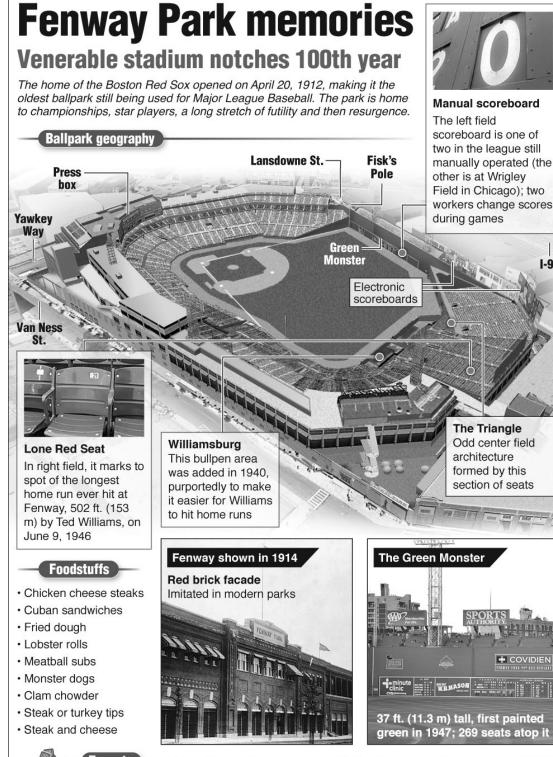
Walking onto the field to the theme from "Field of Dreams" and the cheers of the ballpark's 719th consecutive sellout crowd, players from Don Aase to Bob Zupcic gathered at their positions and then watched as Caroline Kennedy took part in a ceremonial first pitch from the first-base box seats 100 years after her great-grandfather did the same.

The Red Sox won the opener on April 20, 1912, 7-6 in 11 innings over the New York Highlanders (who would soon change their name to the Yankees). Boston went on to win the '12 World Series and three more in that decade, but then embarked on an 86-year title drought in which the ballpark became the franchise's biggest star.

This ballpark has created as many memories for people in this area and around the world as any venue in the world," Red Sox manager Bobby Valentine said before the game. "The park here has at least a life of its own. A magic to it. It's the baseball land of Oz.

People dream about this place. Doomed for the wrecking ball before the current owners bought the team in 2002, Fenway now has seats above the Green Monster and an HD video screen — not to mention lights above the upper decks and black and Latin players in the field — all unimaginable when it opened the same week

the Titanic sank. "For whatever age you are, you



Tenants Red Sox, MLB (1912-now) Braves, MLB (1914-'15) - Redskins, NFL (1933-'36) -Yanks, NFL (1944-'48) Patriots, AFL ('63-'67) 2010 1912 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 Source: redsox.com, mlb.com, baseball-almanac.com, Boston Public Library, Library of Congress Graphic: Robert Dorrell © 2011 MCT

bricks and even a musical compo-

Williams. The ceremonies began

on Monday, much as they did 100

baseball team on the field, and on

For the actual anniversary on

Thursday more than 53,000 fans

Friday, the Red Sox brought out

the bunting and the Green Mon-

ster-sized Ŭ.S. flag and hundreds

of players from the franchise's

not-always glorious history.

filed through the gates for an

open house.

years earlier, with the Harvard

sition by Oscar-winner John

can go back and think about the players that you watched as a kid," said Yankees manager Joe Girardi, who as a player made his home at Wrigley Field and the original Yankee Stadium. "It's the same place. It's the same feel. Yeah, they've added a few things here and there and a few seats here and there. But it's still the same feel.'

The Red Sox are planning a season-long birthday party for the ballpark, with a special logo and historic plaques, books and

Jim Rice began the procession of former ballplayers, coming out of a gate under the stands and taking his familiar place in left field. What followed was a steady procession of graying ballplayers in starched white or yellowing jerseys, giving the fans one more chance to cheer for stars Carlton Fisk and Carl Yastrzemski or fan favorites like Dennis "Oil Can" Boyd, Bill "Spaceman" Lee, Bill Buckner, Luis Tiant and Nomar Garciaparra.

Pumpsie Green, who became



History, oddities

· The park's opening was not given great play in the Boston Globe (published by Charles Taylor, father of Red Sox owner John Taylor), as it occurred just five days after the sinking of the RMS Titanic

· Fire destroyed seats along the left field line in May 1926

· Later owner Tom Yawkey refurbished the park in 1934

1-90

· Sky view seats were added in 1946, and lights in 1947

· The base of the left field wall is lower than Lansdowne Street; an occasional rat is seen inside Green Monster

· Left field foul pole is named after Red Sox catcher Carlton Fisk, in honor of his home run in Game 6, 1975 World Series against Cincinnati Reds

First game

April 20, 1912 Red Sox 7, Highlanders 6, in 11 inninas



Surface Grass Cost \$650,000 in 1912 (\$15 million in 2012 dollars)* Capacity 37,493 (fourth-smallest of MLB parks) *cost of land not included



Left field line 310 ft. (94.5 m) Center field 389 ft. 9 in. (118.8 m) Deep right field 380 ft. (115.8 m) Right field line 302 ft. (92 m)



Named in 1912 by owner Taylor, citing its location in "the Fens" section of Boston

the franchise's first black ballplayer more than a decade after Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier, received a warm cheer. The crowd did not seem to know whether to applaud or boo for Jose Canseco, whose two seasons in Boston were characterized by forgettable play and hints he would drop about a book he planned to write.

After taking their positions, the players all gathered around the oldest of the old-timers, Johnny Pesky and Bobby Doerr,

who were pushed out to second base in wheelchairs by recently retired Jason Varitek and Tim Wakefield.

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Pesky, 92, was in tears.

Among the bigger cheers was the chant of "Tito!" that greeted Terry Francona, the manager of the '04 and '07 champions who was let go after the team's unprecedented collapse last September. Francona, who was angered by a newspaper article revealing details about personal troubles during the 2011 season, said he would not attend before relenting.

They were all joined on the field by the current players, who were wearing replica uniforms matching the 1912 style, including all white caps. The Yankees also wore throwbacks; it's believed to be the first time in franchise history they have deigned to do so.

'I loved them. Cool," said Yankees designated hitter Alex Rodriguez, who hit his 631st career homer to move into fifth on baseball's all-time list and lead New York to a 6-2 victory on Friday. 'We can't keep 'em, though.'

Williams, the composer, led members of the Boston Pops in the debut of his "Fanfare for Fenway"; Pops conductor Keith Lockhart took over for "The Star Spangled-Banner." There was an Air Force flyover with planes from World War II, when Fenway was already middle-aged.

The ceremonial first pitch was handled by Kennedy — that's Caroline, not Kevin — whose father was President John F. Kennedy and great-grandfather was Boston Mayor John "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald when Fenway opened. (She was also the inspiration of the Neil Diamond song "Sweet Caroline," which is warbled by Fenway fans every eighth inning.)

Current mayor Tom Menino also threw a ceremonial first pitch, along with Thomas Fitzgerald, a grandson of the Boston mayor.

The ceremony ended with a grape juice toast led from atop the Boston dugout by Kevin Millar and Pedro Martinez, perhaps the two biggest personalities of the 2004 champions that ended the ballclub's 86-year title drought. Millar said they were given a script but, to no one's surprise, they quickly abandoned it.

Martinez left for the New York Mets after the '04 season, a little more than a month after the cathartic parade in which an estimated 3 million to 4 million fans came out to celebrate the first World Series championship in 86 years. Like Garciaparra, Francona, Fisk, Vaughn and even Buckner, who was long blamed for the team's 1986 World Series collapse, Martinez left on poor terms but, now, is warmly welcomed back.

"I felt like I'm still in that parade," Martinez said. "Every time when I come back to Boston, it's always like a parade for me.'

Willingham Extends Hit Streak To 14 As Twins Tip Tampa Bay

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) -Josh Willingham extended his season-opening hitting streak to 14 games with a go-ahead three-run double and the Minnesota Twins beat the Tampa Bay Rays 5-4 on Friday night.

Willingham's hit in the seventh off Joel Peralta puts him one away from tying Kirby Puckett's team mark of hitting safely in 15 straight games to start the 1994 season.

Lancers

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The twinbill saw numerous hard liners by Mount Marty batters hit directly to Bulldog defenders. "We struggle driving in runs," Fernandez said. "Then we hit it hard and it is right at somebody." Senior Brittany Bruns took over Lancer pitching duties in game two, and threw a complete game gem with only one hiccup.

The Nevada-native gave up a pair of singles in the fifth inning to allow the lone Concordia run. Other than that, Bruns breezed through the seven innings while striking out six Bulldog batters and leaving the rest up to the Lancer defense.

"Jena did a good job of keeping them off balance so I went in trying to keep them off balance and letting my defense make plays, Bruns said.

Mount Marty struck first in the second game, as Freshman Lauren Orwig beat out an infield single with one out and advanced to second on a wild pitch. The Norfolknative later scored when senior

The Twins also got two RBIs from Joe Mauer, who went 2 for 3 with two walks. Mauer is 31 for 70 overall at Tropicana Field.

homered for the Rays. Longoria had a homer and four RBIs in Tampa Bay's 9-4 win Thursday night at Toronto.

on Carlos Pena's bases-loaded double-play grounder in the sixth, Longo-

Evan Longoria and Matt Jovce

After Tampa Bay tied it with a run

Emily Girard hit a two-out bloop single to shallow left field. After Concordia tied things up in the fifth, the game remained knotted at 1-1 entering the seventh

"We stayed confident and sound defensively in game two," Fernandez said. "We put ourselves in a situation where we hope one of our players can step up.

After a groundout and a pair of infield fly outs retired the Bulldogs in the top half of the seventh, Mount Marty would get one final chance to end the game in regulation.

Senior Andrea Hansen flew out to right field to start the bottom half of the seventh to bring up fellow senior and Oregon-native Amanda Volgarino.

Volgarino, who had numerous hard hit balls throughout the evening with little to show for, found a pitch to her liking and sent a towering arch over the left field fence to give the Lancers a 2-1 victory.

"It felt good off the bat," Volgarino said. "I might have had a couple of thoughts about hitting one out, but my main goal was just to get a base hit."

The home run was Volgarino's sixth of the year and also adds to ria gave Tampa Bay a 4-2 lead with a two-run shot off Liam Hendriks.

Mauer had put the Twins ahead 2-0 on RBI singles in the first and fifth. Joyce cut the Rays' deficit to 2-1 during the fifth on his fourth homer

of the season. Hendriks gave up four runs and five hits in 5 2-3 innings. Tampa Bay's Matt Moore allowed three runs and eight hits over 6 1-3 innings.

her team-leading RBI total of 14.

The difference between the two games was night and day, and the Lancers will need to keep playing sound defensively like they did in game two to have a shot at a GPAC post-season berth.

"Amanda ended it with a walk off but it's everything that the team did to put us in that situation up to that point," Fernandez added.

Bruns picked up her second win of the season with her strong effort from the pitching circle.

Mount Marty (4-26, 2-8 GPAC) hosts Midland University in a Sunday afternoon doubleheader at Riverside Field that could have huge playoff implications as the Warriors currently sit in the eighth and final GPAC post-season qualifying position. Action gets underway

at 3 p.m. "Our goal is to go out and get some wins," Bruns added. "We're still looking to go to the conference tourney so we will see if we can make it.'

Concordia (13-15, 7-5 GPAC) plays Briar Cliff in Sioux City today (Saturday).

You can follow Chris Riley on Twitter at twitter.com/ChrisCRiley

Vikings

From Page 8

clearly talk about that is an open market," Rosen said. "I do believe there is a feeling in some legislators and even in some folks throughout the state that they would never leave. So it was good to hear from the NFL, and from a very prominent owner, that they do have the right to move or be sold.

Vikings officials, including owners Zygi and Mark Wilf, were not present at the meeting. Afterward, most who were in the room said the need to act is urgent.

There were no implied threats or any threats at all," Goodell said. "What we talked about is the importance of creating a solution here that works for the team, that works for the community. This isn't a new issue. It's been dis-

Townsend

From Page 8

But Mason's father, Mike, feels there is another reason why he has been so motivated.

"To go to Fenway Park," Mike Townsend said. "Mason is a big Red Sox fan, so we are going to stay two extra days to go to a Red Sox game in Boston.'

"He also gets to go to the basketball hall of fame in Springfield," Jennifer Townsend said. Mason simply gave off a smile cussed here for several years. I think the legislative leaders and the governor understand the time is now.'

Dayton has pushed for a stadium deal for months, saying the state is at risk of losing the team just as it did the Lakers long ago.

Moving the team is not permissible under league rules this year, but there's always 2013. The Vikings have been contacted before by two separate groups trying to lure a team and build a stadium in Los Angeles but have said, for now, they're not interested in selling.

Under the bill approved by the Senate committee, the Vikings would pay \$427 million of the construction costs for the new stadium, which would be built on the Metrodome site in downtown Minneapolis. City and state taxpayers would be on the hook for the other \$548 million, or 56 percent of the total cost.

Dayton said the state leaders didn't ask league officials to en-

that confirmed that those two visits have been major motivators.

With any competition that involves repeated accuracy, nerves can play a factor.

"I feel good about going to nationals, but nervous," Mason said. "It will be difficult to win."

Mason's parents also spoke about their nerves while watching their son compete.

"It is a little bit nerve racking watching him shoot," Mike said. Jennifer agreed there are

some nerves, but had different perspective on the situation.

Sure, there are nerves, but it

hance the private contribution in the financing package. He said the NFL delegation ran through a league loan program that could give the team access to up to \$200 million, but it has long been believed franchise owners had figured that money into their calculations.

The closeness of the Senate committee's vote demonstrated concerns still held by a number of lawmakers, with some senators raising opposition to an expansion of gambling that's part of the proposal's funding package. Some also raised the larger issue of providing a public subsidy to benefit a wealthy football team owner.

"I think some of us are just trying to represent the good wishes of many Minnesotans," said Republican Sen. Roger Chamberlain, who voted against the bill.

The Senate bill heads next to another committee of that chamber. Lawmakers are hoping to wrap up their session before the end of April.

is just such an honor for him to make it this far so I feel that takes out some of the nervousness for me," Jennifer said.

Mason's parents are well-practiced in watching him compete in sports. Mason participates in numerous sports including basketball, track, football, and his favorite sport: baseball.

But the baseball can wait for now. An ideal situation would put Mason taking in the Red Sox game in historic Fenway Park against the Oakland Athletics just days after being named the boys' 12-13 year old Elks National Hoop Shoot Contest champion.



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