

Minnesota Twins @ Boston Red Sox

GAME TITLE

After a mild champagne toast for clinching a wild card, The Boston Red Sox popped the corks after winning their first AL East title in 12 years against the Minnesota Twins. In the third of four, Tim Wakefield gets one more chance for win 17; he'll face Carlos Silva. Game time is scheduled for 7:05 at Fenway Park.

STATUS OF HOME TEAM

(SOT of Final Out) The Red Sox beat the Twins 5-2 and the AL East title was finally theirs when the Yankees lost an hour later. Daisuke Matsuzaka won his 15th game, striking out 8 in 8 innings for his first victory since Labor Day. He got offense from Mike Lowell, who had 2 RBI's and David Ortiz, who went 3 for 4 with his 35th homer.

STATUS OF VISITING TEAM

Kevin Slowey gave up first inning RBI singles to the aforementioned Mike Lowell and J.D. Drew and it was uphill from there. Justin Morneau finally got Minnesota on the scoreboard with his 31st homer in the 7th. The 5-2 defeat guaranteed the Twins' first losing season since 2000, a huge disappointment for the 2006 AL Central Champs.

VISITING PITCHER

Carlos Silva can even his record at 14 apiece with a win tonight. Last Monday at Comerica Park, he won his 13th with 7 plus innings of scoreless baseball. That 2-0 win gave him 3 victories in his last four decisions.

HOME PITCHER

Not even Tim Wakefield has control of his knuckleball. He knows he'll have bad outings, which have stretched to four in a row after giving up four runs in five innings last Sunday's loss at Tropicana Field. He's 0-2 in September with a 10.70 ERA following three straight scoreless outings in August.

VISITOR NOTES

Johan Santana usually gets the hardware at season's end but yesterday, he was doling it out. Pitching coach Rick Anderson plus Catchers Joe Mauer, Mike Redmond and Matt Lecroy each received a rolex watch with special inscriptions. Santana was especially happy to give his to LeCroy in person as he caught Santana's first major league game in 2000...and had just returned to the Twins in September after a 2 year absence.

HOME NOTES

Citing weakness and fatigue that developed in Clay Buchholz's right shoulder over the course of the month, Boston announced he'll be shut down through the post-season. The rookie wowed Red Sox Nation on September 1 with that no-hitter in just his second major league start.

RECAP

It's the Twins and Red Sox with good vibes at Fenway. On the mound, it's Silva against Wakefield in the 3rd of 4 games. It's a 7:05 start in Boston. You can see it live on MLB.TV beginning at 7 eastern.