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Red Sox have quite a fix

The Boston Globe

September 10, 2006

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Hard-luck Rockie

Remember **Kevin Millwood's** 2005 season with the Indians? He led the AL in ERA (2.86) but was 9-11. Well, this year's Kevin Millwood is Colorado's **Jason Jennings**. He is 7-12 in 29 starts, but ranks sixth in the NL with a 3.48 ERA. He has a 2.65 ERA to show for his last 19 starts, but is only 5-7 in that stretch. He ranks fourth in the NL with 20 quality starts (six or more innings and three or fewer runs). The Rockies have scored three or fewer runs in 16 of his starts and he's allowed two or fewer runs in seven of his last eight starts.

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Touching the bases

Apropos of nothing: 1) Too bad Red Sox lefthander **Javier Lopez** never got to pitch to catcher **Javier Lopez**, who was released Friday. 2) There are now 11 ex-Red Sox on the San Diego Padres. Ready? **Dave Roberts**, **Todd Walker**, **Mark Bellhorn**, **Josh Bard**, **Manny Alexander**, **Scott Cassidy**, **Alan Embree**, **Scott Williamson**, **Cla Meredith**, **David Wells**, and **Rudy Seanez**. 3) Big scoring pet peeve: "defensive indifference." A steal is a steal, I say. 4) Sox groundskeeper **Dave Mellor** has lost 120 pounds and looks like a new man. 5) **Anibal Sanchez's** pitching coach at Double A Charlotte before his call-up to the Marlins? Former Red Sox pitch doctor **Rich Gale**. 6) **Manny Ramirez** is telling teammates he might train in Brazil this offseason.

A knit pick

Promotion of the week: There's time to make your reservations for this one, folks. This Wednesday at Jacobs Field, the Indians, in cooperation with the National NeedleArts Association, will combine knitting and baseball. Fans will be going to the ballpark to knit, crochet, embroider, cross-stitch, and needlepoint. Can't imagine **Eric Wedge** sitting in the dugout crocheting a turtleneck, then turning to **Grady Sizemore** and saying, "Am I doing this right?"

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Bitter pill to swallow

Phillies slugger **Ryan Howard** is hearing whispers about whether he's using a performance-enhancing substance. Howard had 80 homers in 246 career games, which puts him on pace to hit No. 100 in his 306th game. According to Elias, the fastest player to 100 homers since 1969 was Atlanta's **Bob Horner**, who needed only 390 games. Howard is starting to get angry. "People are entitled to their opinions," he said. "But it does bother me. It casts a shadow on the game. I know I'm not using steroids. This barrel right here [pointing to his stomach] is proof enough. People are going to say what they want to say. I'm not doing it. If they want to test me, they can test me. The thing about it is, if you're going to make those kinds of comments, have proof. Otherwise, you can ruin people's reputations."

Arm-in-arm with history

We're seeing something special with AL Cy Young favorite **Johan Santana**. The Twins lefty has a chance to be the first pitcher since **Sandy Koufax** in 1966 to lead his league in wins (he's at 17), strikeouts, (219), ERA (2.84), and innings (at 206 1/3, he's two-thirds of an inning behind Toronto's **Roy Halladay**). All superb stats, but compare them to Koufax in the non-DH league: 27 wins, 323 innings, 317 strikeouts, and a 1.73 ERA.

Material from personal interviews, wire services, other beat writers, and league and team sources was used in this report. ■

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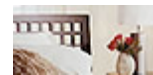
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