

# Total eclipse

Lunar show put on for Granite Staters ▶ **B1**



# Mock election

Kerry ekes out 20-vote victory ▶ **A6**

# Earl Rinker

Rye official resigns after being put on leave ▶ **B1**

WORLD SERIES EDITION

# The Union Leader



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DANIEL WEBSTER

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## 2004 WORLD SERIES



# BELIEVE IT!



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boston's Doug Mientkiewicz, left, and catcher Jason Varitek jump into Keith Foulke's (29) arms after the Red Sox defeated the St. Louis Cardinals, 3-0, in Game 4 to win the World Series at Busch Stadium in St. Louis last night. See Sports, D1.

## Red Sox sweep Cards for first title since 1918

By KEVIN GRAY  
Staff Sports Writer

Finally it happened. The Boston Red Sox won the World Series, and life has forever changed. New England's favorite team may not be defined by 86 years of failure. This morning, there is no longer such a cruel past — certainly no curse. There is only the glorious present, and deserving players and fans are on top.

With a 3-0 victory in Game 4 last night, Boston concluded one of the most incredible stories in sports history. It didn't take a planetary alignment for the Red Sox to finally win the World Series, but they did clinch under a lunar eclipse at Busch Stadium.

It's all true. Boston swept the Cardinals, a historical nemesis, and captured the elusive Fall Classic with a most dominating performance.

The Red Sox won for those who've followed Ted Williams in '46, Carl Yastrzemski in '67, Carlton Fisk in '75 and Roger Clemens in '86. Younger fans had only begun to understand the struggle of following the Sox. Unlike their ancestors, they've been spared decades of potential agony.

Now ecstasy from a team that never hurt so good.

The 2004 Red Sox, immune to the weight of history, shrugged off near-elimination against New York and triumphed eight straight times against the Yankees and Cardinals — teams with the most wins in all of baseball.

For years to come, Boston's journey will be remembered as the postseason's greatest comeback. So forget other failures and miscues etched in baseball history because, suddenly, they just don't matter as much anymore.

For once, long-suffering fans don't have to spend the winter hearing about what could've been. They will rejoice at the thought of Mark Bellhorn's Game 1 homer, Curt Schilling's Game 2 start and everything that went beautifully in St. Louis, where Manny Ramirez and Johnny Damon homered. Boston never trailed in four games.

Trot Nixon, the longest-tenured player in the Red Sox organization, drilled a two-run double as Boston took 3-0 lead in the third inning. Starter Derek Lowe, who defeated the Yankees a week ago last night, once again embraced the spotlight by tossing a three-hitter through seven innings.

Relievers finished off the Cardinals as everything changed across the sporting landscape.

A new generation of fans have jumped on board, and somewhere an elderly fan can rest knowing the Red Sox finally have won the World Series.

Wait 'til next season? Of course. The World Series champs report to spring training in February.

### Good Morning, New Hampshire!

#### A Small Prayer

Dear Lord, You have given us all talents. May we use them for You. Amen.

#### Chuckle

If home is where the heart is, then you'd better get the rest of your body back there, too.



#### Mostly sunny

Stephanie Tardif, Grade 4, Laconia

▶ Details, A4



#### Today's Letters

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