

Red Sox win Series, 278-1



MICHAEL MADDEN

It hasn't diminished all that much. The mornings come, sleep ends, and I sometimes find myself waking and still saying to myself, "It couldn't have happened. They didn't really lose that game."

So I talked with Mike Cieleski. I asked Cieleski if he could compute the random waywardness of life and tell me exactly how many games would have to be played for it again to end that way. Cieleski said he would try.

"Two outs in the 10th," I tell him.

"OK."
"Nobody on base."
"Uh-huh."
"Gary Carter up."
"Right."

"Calvin Schiraldi pitching, the crowd deadly quiet and Keith Hernandez already back in the locker room, peeling off his uniform."

"Gotcha."

Now, some background. Cieleski, a young man from Brookfield, Wis., is the originator of a wonderful baseball board game that is extraordinarily sophisticated and most realistic. It is called Pursue The Pennant #44-45, P.O. Box 1045, Brookfield, Wis. 53005, and is played with dice and cards bearing the statistical idiosyncracies of major league players. It even comes with its own Ballparks, games in Fenway Park obviously being much different from games in the Astrodomes (Cieleski, for instance, soon will play in the dif-

ference in home runs during the day and at night in Oakland).

Beyond the statistical scenario of Pursue The Pennant (you can picture Bill James challenging the Elias Sports Bureau for a long-distance game or two of Pursue The Pennant during lunch, breakfast, the game also boasts all kinds of individual nuances, whether the wind is blowing in or out, artificial turf or grass, Don Sutton's card, for instance, comes with a special SPRT symbol, and the proper roll of the dice with Red Sutton tossed out of the game for dunking the ball, Jacinto Andujar, Mario Soto and Pascual Perez have special HOT symbols on their cards, and the proper roll of the dice will result in mayhem — brush-back pitches, brawls, pitchers storming home plate and bumping with umpires).

But the game is remarkable in its ability to duplicate real baseball players in real baseball situations. Sammy Stewart pitching against Kirk Gibson will find more than a few balls atop the roof of Tiger Stadium.

And on a sunny afternoon in Milwaukee in late September, Cieleski and I began play in the upcoming playoff series between the Red Sox and Angels. The Pursue The Pennant series ended with Boston beating the Angels in seven, Roger Clemens pitching and winning the final game. Later the real series was played and ...

But this time I wanted to know the past. This time I wanted Cieleski to play the game and tell me whether the past was as incredible as it seemed. This time I wanted to know whether the real was unreal.

This time I wanted Cieleski to stake up his game from two outs in the 10th inning, the Red Sox leading by two runs, nobody on base for the Mets, and then tell me how long it would take for the Mets to win. He promised to

give it a try. The word, the word from the weary, came back.

"I was up all night, until I finally gave up," said the developer of the game. "With two outs — even if you get one or two base-runners — you usually get an out. That's what kept happening. I kept getting an out ... actually, I had thoughts of this like Mets winning never happening."

Cieleski kept trying the next morning. Fifty times he played the game from that point, and 50 times the Red Sox won. One hundred times the dice were rolled, statistics interlocked, probabilities weighed, and 100 times the Mets lost. Then 150 times, 200, on and on to 250 times, the Red Sox winning each and every of the 250 times.

"I really gained an appreciation of what the Mets did in that miracle rally," said Cieleski. "Just as I had an underappreciation, given Boston's background, of what the Red Sox went through in losing the game that way."

Finally, on the 278th try, the Mets won the game," he said. "Carter doubled into the gap in left-center, Kevin Mitchell homered, Ray Knight singled to center and Mookie Wilson homered to left. It took me 278 tries to duplicate what the Mets did in that sixth game."

I was a glutton. I asked him to play out the game in a different way. I asked him to put Dave Stapleton at first base, remove Bill Buckner, and then play out the 10th inning with the game tied, Bob Stanley in for Boston and Wilson at the plate for the Mets.

"Stapleton made the play cleanly," came back Pursue The Pennant's handling of Wilson's grounder to first. The game now moved into the 11th, Doug Stak pitching for the Mets, and neither team scored, although Dwight Evans saved the game for Boston with a "great over-

the-shoulder grab on the dead run" of Wally Backman's long drive to the bottom of the 11th.

Neither team scored in the 12th or 13th (Wilson and Spike Owen each leaving runners on base, although Pursue The Pennant was forced to make a double switch for the Red Sox when Steve Crawford got into trouble in the bottom of the 12th. With Lenny Dykstra on second, Joe Sambito replaced Crawford and batted eighth. Ed Romero simultaneously went in for Owen at shortstop and batted ninth, while Sambito got out of the jam by getting Backman to fly to Dave Henderson in center).

The double switch worked. Romero opened the 14th by doubling to left-center, and he was driven home by a Wade Boggs double to the same spot. Jim Rice ultimately knocked in Boggs. Sambito got the Mets 1-2-3 in the bottom of the 14th and Red Sox won the game, 7-5, and the World Series.

I kept looking at the play-by-play sheets of the mock games. The world seemed more sane somehow. That is, until I looked down to the bottom of the last sheet where there was a sort of P.S.

"Replay of Game 5 of the ALCS," it read. "What would have happened if Gene Mauch had left Mike Witt in to face Rich Gedman with two out in the sixth, no one on, and the Angels leading, 5-4?"

Pursue The Pennant had the answer.

"Gedman grounded a single into center field. Henderson hit a sharp grounder through the hole past Grich at first. Gedman to second (Witt fatigued). Owen hit a high fly to Pettit in center field. Game over."

On second thought, I think I'll take reality.

Michael Madden is a Globe columnist.

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American Monthly Review of Reviews ,1890 **Digest; Review of Reviews Incorporating Literary Digest** ,1928
World's Press News and Advertiser's Review ,1962 **Practical Druggist and Pharmaceutical Review of Reviews**
,1927 **Opening Fenway Park with Style** Bill Nowlin,Lan Levin,Dan Desrochers,Maurice Bouchard,2012-05 OPENING
FENWAY PARK WITH STYLE The 1912 World Champion Red Sox is the collaborative work of 27 members of the Society for
American Baseball Research SABR This book which contains over 300 period photographs and illustrations has at its core the
individual biographies of every player on the team even Douglass Smith who appeared in just one game There are also
biographies of owner John I Taylor and American League founder Ban Johnson The book also contains a detailed timeline of
the full calendar year with essays on the construction of brand new Fenway Park and its first renovation as the team which
won the pennant by 14 games prepared for Fenway s first World Series The 1912 World Series remains one of the most
exciting in baseball history extending to eight games because of a 14 inning tie game in Game Two In Game Eight the Giants
scored a tie breaking run to take a lead in the top of the 10th inning only to see Boston come back with two in the bottom of
the 10th to win at home Other articles in the book detail intriguing topics including a fascinating spring training during
which Sox players joined the hunt for a murderer in Hot Springs life in Boston in 1912 and how the newspapers and
telegraph reported the games in the days before radio television or the internet It may surprise some to learn of the
thousands of people who crowded outside the downtown offices of newspapers so they could get batter by batter updates on
the progress of the World Series games in progress There are more than a dozen books celebrating the 100th anniversary of
Fenway Park but only this one is devoted to the 1912 season itself providing the context for the then new park which remains
home to Boston baseball a century later **The New York Times Book Reviews 2000** New York Times Staff,2001 This
anthology examines Love s Labours Lost from a variety of perspectives and through a wide range of materials Selections
discuss the play in terms of historical context dating and sources character analysis comic elements and verbal conceits
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and critical commentary the volume also includes essays written by practicing theater artists who have worked on the play
An index by name literary work and concept rounds out this valuable resource *The Fourth Estate* ,1922 **New York
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photography covering everything from politics and food to theater and fashion the magazine s consistent mission has been to
reflect back to its audience the energy and excitement of the city itself while celebrating New York as both a place and an

idea *The Athenaeum* ,1907 **Athenaeum and Literary Chronicle** ,1905 **The Review of Reviews** ,1897 The
Holy Name Journal ,1925 **The Saturday Review of Politics, Literature, Science and Art** ,1898 **The American**
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