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## Sox shake ghost of seasons' past

For the first time in 12 years, the Boston Red Sox get a postseason win

By Tom Withers  
The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The last Boston Red Sox first baseman to make such a splash in the postseason did so by letting a ball roll through his legs.

Mo Vaughn's only connection

with Bill Buckner is that they both play the same position. What separated the two Tuesday was something Boston fans have been waiting 12 tortuous years to see — a postseason win by the Red Sox.

Vaughn homered twice and tied a record with seven RBIs as Boston halted a 13-game postseason losing streak that began with Buckner's infamous error, beating Cleveland 11-3 in their AL

playoff opener.

Nomar Garciaparra hit a three-run homer, and Pedro Martinez pitched seven innings as Boston ended a slide that began on Oct. 25, 1986, when Mookie Wilson's grounder to first skipped past Buckner at Shea Stadium in the World Series.

That forced a Game 7 the Red Sox lost, and Boston — which hasn't won the Series since 1918 — was swept by Oakland in 1988 and '90, and then by Cleveland in 1995.

Those failures had weighed heavily on the Red Sox and especially on Vaughn, who went 0-for-14 with seven strikeouts in his only previous playoff experience in '95.

"It was nice to get off a lot of things," Vaughn said. "... We did all right, man. We did a lot of things individually and as a team. It was nice to get it done today."

This year's Red Sox insist the past is just that, and they're not cursed by Babe Ruth's ghost or any other demons. And with Boston's trio of stars doing most of the damage, the Red Sox made the Indians and 45,815 fans at Jacobs Field believers.

"I didn't even know we had one," Garciaparra said of the losing streak. "You're asking the wrong guy."

Mike Stanley, in his second stint with the Red Sox, knows there's no sense denying what happened.

"Even though you weren't here, you know," Stanley said. "You're still cognizant of what the record is in postseason and what Mo's done. You can't help but notice."

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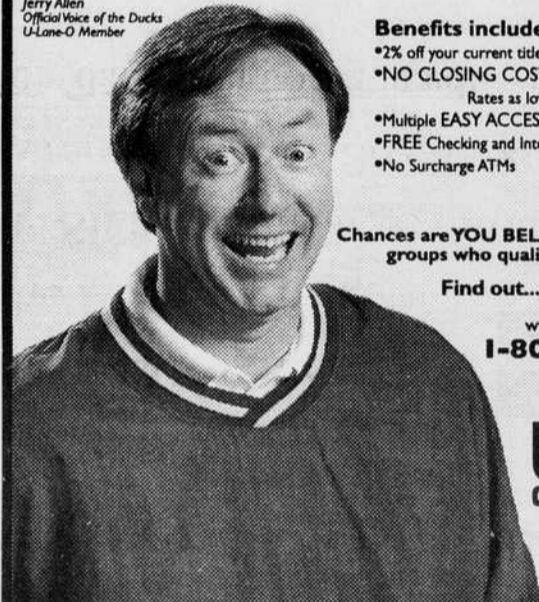
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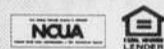
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