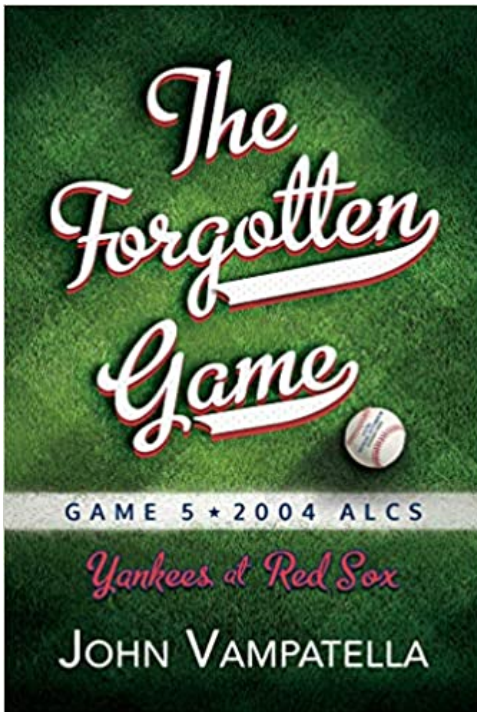


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The Forgotten Game

Game 5, 2004 American League Championship Series



A gripping detailed recap of the wildly insane, oft-overlooked, extra-innings classic that turned the 2004 ALCS into the most memorable playoff series in modern history.

No team had ever come back from a 3-0 deficit to win a postseason series in baseball. In the history of MLB postseason play going into Game 5, there had been twenty-five series to start out 3-0. Of those, twenty ended in sweeps, two made it to a sixth game, and none had made it to a seventh game.

The Forgotten Game details one of the greatest games in baseball history between the two most bitter rivals in the sport. For years the two teams fought for American League supremacy, with the Yankees usually coming out on top. Following an incredible 2003 playoff series, the two teams squared off again in 2004 for the right to go to the World Series.

The Yankees won the first three games in convincing fashion, and it seemed, yet again, they would eliminate the Red Sox...until Boston miraculously won Game 4. Most fans remember the steal by Dave Roberts that sparked the game-tying rally in the ninth to keep Boston's hopes alive. And most fans remember Curt Schilling's sutured ankle in Game 6. But Game 5 was a do-or-die moment for the Red Sox, and they delivered in epic fashion. Yet, despite being the pivotal game in the series, it hasn't drawn the attention the others have.

The Forgotten Game breaks down Game 5 on a virtual pitch-by-pitch basis, from the battle between Pedro Martinez and Mike Mussina, to the clutch performances by Tim Wakefield and David Ortiz, while breaking down the strategies the managers employed, and stories of how various players made their way to their respective teams for that fateful night. Never before has the story of Game 5 been told in such vivid and riveting detail.

Meet the Author

John Vampatella

John Vampatella is a thinker, a learner, and a writer. He is also a high school volleyball coach, a sports broadcaster, a public speaker, and a national leader in an interdenominational sports ministry.

His love of sport – particularly baseball – led him to capture in writing one of the greatest sporting events he’s ever seen: Game 5 of the 2004 American League Championship Series between the Red Sox and Yankees.

A graduate of Syracuse University’s prestigious S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communication, John still bleeds orange, which always makes for interesting encounters with the students, faculty, and members of the athletic department he interacts with regularly at the University of Connecticut, where he serves with Athletes in Action, an international sports ministry.

John loves sports of all kinds, and desires to bring the worlds of sports and faith into focus. He is the author of three books: *The Immigrant* – the story of his grandfather’s immigration to the U.S. from Sicily as a teenager in 1913; *For Good Reason* – answering questions about faith and purpose in today’s world; and *The Forgotten Game*.



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Praise for The Forgotten Game

“When my favorite band releases their greatest hits album I devour it. Years later after listening to it a million times I enjoy the simple pleasure of hearing all the other songs and B-sides. John Vampatella’s book is uncovering incredible songs that weren’t played on radio. If you’ve devoured everything Red Sox-Yankees you’ll LOVE IT. If you are new to the rivalry and era you will understand it for the first time. I couldn’t put it down and loved the historical context of each inning. I loved it.” – **Gar Ryness (Batting Stance Guy)**

“As a sports talk show host on WSKO in Providence and a diehard Red Sox fan in 2004, I remember that ALCS very well. While most people remember Boston’s dramatic game 4 victory or Curt Schilling’s bloody sock heroics in game 6, game 5 was truly the unsung hero of the series. John Vampatella does a magnificent job of explaining why while providing tremendous background and anecdotes that all baseball fans will enjoy. *The Forgotten Game* is an absolute must for Red Sox fans of all ages!” – **Scott Cordischi, sports talk show host**

“An enjoyable and in-depth look back at not only Game 5, but also highlights from the 2004 season that showed how the Red Sox were able to rally back and win the ALCS and their first World Series since 1918” - **Ryan Siever, Red Sox fan**

“I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It is meticulously researched, but pleasantly weaves its way through events in the manner of a friendly barstool or fireside chat. It revived many memories that had long ago faded for me. Often while reading, I found myself smiling - reveling once again in the joy of the long-awaited outcome of the 2004 ALCS. With so much historical emphasis on Game 4, I was one of those that had forgotten Game 5. I’m happy that John Vampatella has brought this game back to life.” - **Dan Withers, USN**

“*The Forgotten Game* offers an outstanding deep dive of Game 5 of ALCS, an overlooked moment in the series that would redefine baseball’s most storied rivalry. Vampatella expertly brings to life a unique moment in time, as the journeys of some of the baseball’s most interesting players, teams, and fans collided in Fenway Park. It offers accessibility for fans who did not live through it and depth for those who did. I highly recommend it.” - **Mike Sherman, baseball fan**

“John Vampatella’s *The Forgotten Game* is an honest and detailed account of the swing game in 2004 American League Championship Series between the Red Sox and Yankees. The author focuses on the pivotal Game 5. As a Yankees fan, I can tell you John delivers his story with an even hand, favoring neither side, revealing insights he has gleaned from his own perspective and from the words of announcers who called the marathon 14-inning game. On retelling this game story 16 years later, John Vampatella reminds us how evenly matched these two great teams were.” - **Terry Nau, author and Yankee fan**