

A True Bostonian Forever
By Jesse Almeida 10/27/22

Sometimes there are professional athletes out there who do not fit in one place, but they are the perfect fit in another. That player does not have to be a superstar player, they just have to play the role that they were brought in to do. We all know that playing in the city of Boston can be tough. All that Boston fans want is to see their team compete and win. How does a player handle that? How does a player adapt to playing in an atmosphere like Boston? There have been plenty of times where it was too much for certain athletes. But then there were times where an athlete stepped into the spotlight and performed well. One professional athlete who stepped into the spotlight in Boston and not only played well, but also won the city over was Brock Holt.

On December 26, 2012 the Red Sox made a trade with the Pittsburgh Pirates which at the time was known as the Joel Hanrahan trade. The Sox acquired Hanrahan who was a top closer in baseball at the time where Joel recorded a 2.24 ERA¹ in 128.1 innings pitched with 128 strikeouts, and 76 saves over the 2 previous seasons. The Sox needed a closer at this time due to the fact that Andrew Bailey went down with an injury and questions sparked up on what his career would be like after this. The Red Sox not only got Hanrahan, but they acquired Brock Holt as well. Brock at the time was 24 and showed some talent in his first 24 games of being in the big leagues. He had a .292 batting average and was hard to strike out. In Double-A, he batted .322 and was the 5th hardest player to strike out with a 8.47 PA/SO², and in Triple-A he batted .432 in 24 games. The Red Sox would end up trading reliever Mark Melancon who they acquired the year before from Houston and 3 prospects in return for Hanrahan and Holt. The Red Sox ended up winning this deal but not because of Hanrahan, but because of Brock Holt.

Brock Holt was a phenomenal utility player who would play any position well. The only position he would not play was catcher. There was a time where Vazquez looked like he got hurt and the Sox were out of catchers and Cora looked at Holt and Brock was shaking his head like “no way.” He played every position well and fans would feel comfortable with him on the defensive end wherever he was. Brock Holt was a 1x All Star with the Red Sox, is the player in Major League Baseball history to hit for the cycle in the postseason, and most importantly won the World Series for the 2013, and 2018 Boston Red Sox. During his 7 year tenure with the Red Sox, Brock Holt had a .270 batting average, he hit 23 home runs with 203 runs batted in and 106

¹ ERA = Earned Run Average

² PA/SO = Plate Appearances Per Strikeout

doubles. Brock Holt was not only a warrior on the field, but he was a warrior off the field as well. Holt was a 5 time Jimmy Fund Captain along with working with the Dana-Farba Cancer Institution. Holt made countless amounts of memories and had a huge impact on people's lives. Even after he left the Red Sox, he was still making an impact with the Jimmy Fund. When he was in town with the Rangers, he spent his time before a game to visit the Jimmy Fund Clinic to drop off cookies to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

Brock Holt may not have been the biggest name in Boston Sports, but there is no doubt that he will always have a special place in Boston's heart. From giving back to the Boston community, to helping the Red Sox win 2 championships. Thank you Brock for everything you have done for the city Boston. You will most likely be back in Boston at some point, but you are always welcome back here. Congratulations on your retirement.

Sources:

[Red Sox acquire right-handed pitcher Joel Hanrahan and infielder Brock Holt in six-player trade with Pirates | MLB.com](#)

[Andrew Bailey Stats, Height, Weight, Position, Rookie Status & More | Baseball-Reference.com](#)

[Mark Melancon Stats, Height, Weight, Position, Rookie Status & More | Baseball-Reference.com](#)

[Brock Holt Stats, Height, Weight, Position, Rookie Status & More | Baseball-Reference.com](#)

[Brewers: Brock Holt Is An Absolute Treasure To Have Mic'd Up \(reviewingthebrew.com\)](#)

[Brock Holt Visits Jimmy Fund Clinic Amid Return To Boston With Rangers \(nesn.com\)](#)