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# Boston police to use different pepper-spray Associated Press gun after fan's death

By Brooke Donald, Associated Press Writer | October 24, 2004

BOSTON -- Phalanxes of police in riot gear lined the streets around Fenway Park as tens of thousands of exuberant Red Sox fans flooded peacefully out of the ballpark early Sunday after Boston's 11-9 win over the St. Louis Cardinals.

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Other than two arrests during the game, one for disorderly conduct and the other for possession of marijuana, the spirited atmosphere was noisy but restrained, with no disturbances or violence like that which marred the hours after Boston clinch the American League Championship last Wednesday.

Some fans on their way home from the game early Sunday clowned next to the police and took pictures as they passed, but many more thanked the officers and wished them luck in upcoming games as they walked past the ranks of impassive police along streets leading from Fenway.

Before the game, Boston police announced that they would not arm officers with the type of pepper-spray guns fired at celebratory fans on Wednesday. One of the pellets struck and killed a 21-year-old college student.

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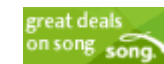
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In a news conference outside Fenway about an hour before Saturday's game, police said they would instead use pepper spray pellet guns that were less powerful than those used last week.

The new weapon to be used is a Jaycor, while the previous weapon was an FN303, a compressed-air gun made by FN Herstal.

After Boston beat the Yankees 10-3 in New York on Wednesday, fans poured into streets around the stadium Wednesday night and early Thursday morning to celebrate the win that sent Boston to its first World Series since 1986. Some revelers set small fires, threw bottles at police and vandalized property.

Police officers fired pepper-spray pellets into a crowd, hitting 21-year-old Emerson College student Victoria Snelgrove, of East Bridgewater, in the eye. She died later Thursday at a hospital.

"It was very unfortunate, what happened a few days ago," said Lt. Kevin Foley of the Boston Police Department.

Snelgrove's death sparked outrage about police tactics and led the mayor and bar owners to agree on restrictions to keep fans from getting out of control.

Bar owners around the park agreed to not allow long lines to form outside, to keep a closer eye on how much patrons drink, and to not allow television stations to film patrons inside -- so fans don't get rowdy playing to the cameras. ■

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