

Did the Sox make the right decision to open their season in Japan?

Tell us what you think at projosports.com/redsox



EAST PROVIDENCE, LA SALLE ADVANCE: View the gallery at HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland

Projo PatsTalk

Shalisse Manza Young discusses the latest news from Gillette Stadium, posted today at noon at projosports.com/patriots

Giving thanks

The best records the Celts have ever had through the end of November:

	RECORD ON NOV. 30	PCT.
1985-86	15-1	.937
1957-58	15-1	.937
1972-73	18-3	.857
1979-80	17-4	.809
1964-65	16-5	.762

For up-to-the-second stats and scores: projosports.com/celtics



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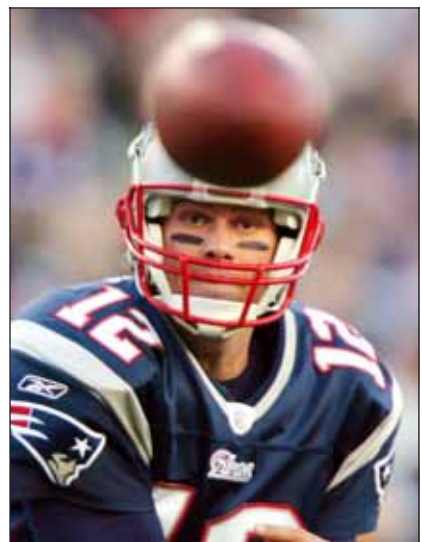
THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / RUBEN W. PEREZ

Jonathan Sigalet of the P-Bruins takes a pretty good hit from the Pirates' Gordie Dwyer last night at the Dunkin' Donuts Center, but Providence got the last lick in, posting a shootout victory in its home opener. **Story, C-5.**



AP / CHARLES KRUPA

Jason Kidd and the New Jersey Nets proved to be no match for Tony Allen and the Boston Celtics, who improved their season mark to 7-0 after last night's convincing victory at the TD Banknorth Garden. **Story, C-5.**



THE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady has thrown more than his share of touchdown passes this season, and you can take a look back at his impressive work at: projosports.com/patriots

'HOME' IS WHERE THE START IS

Matsuzaka, Okajima, Sox to open season in Tokyo



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

Daisuke Matsuzaka is one of the main reasons the Boston Red Sox will open their 2008 season in Tokyo against the Oakland Athletics, but Matsuzaka's wife is pregnant, which could prevent him from participating in the two-game series.

BY SEAN McADAM
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — After months of negotiations, internal debate and some arm-twisting on the part of Major League Baseball, the Red Sox yesterday officially signed off on opening their 2008 season some 6,711 miles from home — at the Tokyo Dome against the Oakland A's.

The two teams will become the fifth and sixth teams to play in Japan, following the path of the New York Mets and Chicago Cubs in 2000 and the New York Yankees and Tampa Bay Devil Rays in 2004.

The plan calls for the A's and Sox to play two games in Tokyo — March 25 and 26 — before returning to the United States to finish their four-game series at Network Associates Coliseum in Oakland on April 1 and 2.

Before meeting in Japan, the Sox and A's will play two exhibition games each against Japanese teams on March 22 and March 23. The Sox are tentatively scheduled to depart their spring training base in Fort Myers, Fla. on March 19.

"Opening our regular season in Japan for the third time is another example of Major League Baseball's commitment to continue the global growth of the game," said commissioner Bud Selig.

The trip, first proposed last spring, produced a long and sometimes difficult series of negotiations for the clubs

involved. Within the Red Sox organization, the majority of the baseball operations department was against the trip, citing concerns about what effect the trip would have on the players for the first month of the season.

Eventually, the Japanese promoters, Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association made some concessions to the schedule and travel arrangements to satisfy all parties.

Additionally, the players fought for an increase in the compensation paid by promoters. According to a person familiar with the negotiations, the players will receive approximately

Mark your calendar

- The Sox will leave for Japan sometime during the week of March 16
- They'll play exhibition games in Japan on Saturday, March 22 and Sunday, March 23
- The games against the A's, which count in the regular-season standings, will be played on Tuesday, March 25 and Wednesday, March 26
- The Sox will fly back to the United States and play a weekend exhibition series against the Dodgers in Los Angeles on March 28-30
- They'll play two more regular-season games against the A's, this time in Oakland, on April 1-2.

SEE RED SOX, C5

Rams pick the Bears clean, post a tidy win

BY PAUL KENYON
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Last year, turnovers were a dirty word at many University of Rhode Island basketball games. This year, they are quickly turning into the magic word.

The Rams used their ability to steal at one end while protecting the ball at the other end to key a 75-61 triumph over Brown last night at the Pizzitola Center.

Led by its bench brigade, URI

URI
75
BROWN
61

forced 22 turnovers while committing only 9 itself. The Rams scored 35 points off turnovers while Brown had 8. Those numbers do a good job of telling what happened.

Rhode Island used its speed and pesky defense to hound the Bears all night, especially late in the first half when it took control.

SEE URI, C3



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KRIS CRAIG

The Bears' Chris Skrelja tries to drive to the hoop past URI's Will Daniels in the second half of last night's game at Brown.

NFL dreams are reality for late-bloomer Sherry

His name is Matt Sherry, and he's getting interest from NFL scouts.

His name is Matt Sherry, and he's a wonderful local success story. So how come you've never heard of him?

Well, that's part of the story, too.

Sherry's been flying underneath the radar for a long time now, thanks to a number of things.

But that might be about to change.

Or when you are 6-foot-4, 255 pounds and can run, and NFL scouts come around, odds are your life's about to change.

On Saturday he will end his college career at Villanova, but his football will not end. He will get an agent. He will begin working out full-time in preparation for a professional career. He will try to get invited to college all-star games.

SEE REYNOLDS, C5