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CENTRAL FALLS, MIDDLETOWN IN FINALS: View the gallery at HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland

Friars audio

Hear Tim Welsh's comments following yesterday's game with Temple in Puerto Rico, at projosports.com/pc

Artificial boost?

In their 2006 book *Game of Shadows*, authors Mark Fainaru-Wada and Lance Williams allege Barry Bonds began using steroids in 1999. Here, through 2004, are the numbers from an average Bonds season prior to, and after, 1999:

	HR	RBI	AVG
1986-98	32	93	.290
1999-2004	49	105	.328

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

SECTION C



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2007

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Friars dig deep in nick of time, nip Owls at end

Playing tough man-to-man defense, PC closes its Puerto Rico Tip-Off game with a 14-2 run and escapes with a two-point win over Temple.

BY KEVIN McNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — For the longest stretches, the Providence Friars couldn't play much worse in their season-opener against Temple yesterday. Then, with the game on the line, the Friars couldn't play much better.

Down by 10 points with 6:02 to play, the Friars appeared dead in their first-round game at the Puerto Rico Tip-Off. A ragged defense and sluggish offense combined to sap the team's energy and force coach Tim Welsh into a corner.

"We had to somehow change the rhythm," he said. "We were not going to sit in a zone all night long, so we had to try to do something. We went with a little more quickness on the defensive end and it worked. We put them on lockdown and were more aggressive."

Playing the type of man-to-man defense Welsh's teams have lacked for the last few seasons, the Friars closed the game with a 14-2 run to escape with a 66-64 win.

"We kept the pressure on them and they were shot at the end," said Jeff Xavier, who combined with freshman Alex Kellogg down the stretch to stifle the Owls' top two players with outstanding defensive work.

Xavier scored 12 points and was one of four Friars to reach double figures. Dwain Williams led the way with 17, Geoff McDermott added 13 points and 7 rebounds and Brian McKenzie knocked in all 12 of his

PC
66
TEMPLE
64

NEXT GAME

Today vs. Arkansas 5:30 p.m.

SEE FRIARS, C5



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON

Patriots running back Laurence Maroney, eluding the Redskins' Anthony Montgomery last month, says he has the vision and speed to make big plays at any time, but the Patriots' coaches would rather see him focus on gaining ground in four-to-five yard chunks.

RUNNING DISPUTE

Patriots want Maroney to slow down in fast lane

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — Laurence Maroney is fast. Runs fast, talks fast, quick with a smile or a joke.

But for Maroney to maximize his yardage, he might have to take things a bit slower.

"I feel like I'm a big-play guy and sometimes that hurts me," Maroney said yesterday. "Maybe I see too much, and I feel like I have the speed so I can bounce around to the outside, and sometimes that hurts me."

Maroney acknowledged that the coaching staff would rather he gain most of his yards in 4- to 5-yard chunks, but he'd rather get more.

The second-year running back has had a frustrating season personally, as he's struggled through rehab from off-season shoulder surgery and a groin injury that had him on the sidelines for

three games last month.

Since his return from the groin injury, Maroney said, he's been working on "running more like they want me to run, but still with my own style."

Against Washington in Week 8, the St. Louis native displayed that patience, getting 75 yards on 14 carries (5.4 yards per carry) before giving way to the team's other backs once the game was well in hand.

Speed has always been part of Maroney's game, and he's confident that molding his style around what the Pats' staff wants of him will lead to success.

"A lot of folks want to talk about how somebody runs, but ask them if they ever ran the ball before," he said "Everybody thinks it's as easy as just get-

ting the ball and go run. There's more to it than that. I didn't try to hide my running style (from the Patriots). They knew my running style before they drafted me. They drafted me because

of my running style and what I've been able to do on the collegiate level so I feel like I shouldn't have to change because one person feels like I dance too much...That (isn't) what got me here. I'm going to continue doing what got

"A lot of folks want to talk about how somebody runs, but ask them if they ever ran the ball before."

LAURENCE MARONEY

me here."

Glen Mason, Maroney's coach at the University of Minnesota and now a Big Ten broadcaster, paired Maroney with bruising back Marion Barber, now with the Cowboys, the great success. "I don't know what's being asked of him, (but

SEE PATRIOTS, C3



PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / MARY MURPHY

Laurence Maroney doesn't care if his detractors label him "injury prone."



AP / ANDRES LEIGHTON

PC's Jeff Xavier, left, tries to shoot over Temple's Dionte Christmas during the second half of yesterday's game.

A-Rod, Yankees agree to a record contract

The outline of a contract for \$275 million will allow him to earn millions more if he sets the career home-run mark.

BY RONALD BLUM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Alex Rodriguez and the Yankees have agreed to the outline of a record \$275-million, 10-year contract, a deal that potentially would allow him to earn millions more if he sets the career home-run record.

The amount of the guaranteed money was revealed by a person familiar with the negotiations who spoke yesterday on condition of anonymity because the

deal hasn't been finalized. A-Rod and his wife met Wednesday in Tampa, Fla., with brothers Hal and Hank Steinbrenner, but the parameters of the agreement were set in place last weekend.

"The meeting was a final get-together," Yankees senior vice president Hank Steinbrenner said. "He wanted to make sure myself and my brother knew that he was sincere and serious."

The Yankees still must draft the agreement with Rodriguez's agent, Scott Boras. Asked whether the only remaining details were putting the deal on paper, Steinbrenner responded: "pretty much so."

SEE YANKEES, C5



AP / ED ZURGA

The Yankees' Alex Rodriguez, preparing for batting practice in Kansas City in July, will remain in pinstripes for a long time to come.

Bonds case: Late better than never

BY JIM LITKE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Federal prosecutors finally stuck a pin in Barry Bonds.

Satisfying as it might have been to see all of that hot air

leak out of the slugger before

COMMENTARY | he carried off the most cherished record in baseball, there's at least this consolation: Late is still better than never.

The perjury and obstruction of justice charges announced yesterday were four years and two grand juries in the making. Maybe it shouldn't have taken that long to shred Bonds' flimsy "flax seed oil" defense. But investigators couldn't get his longtime flunky, convicted BALCO bag man Greg Anderson, to cooperate. And for

all the help baseball kept promising on the drug-testing front, it never could lay a glove on Bonds.

So in a nice bit of serendipity, even with Anderson clammed up in a jail cell, they indicted Bonds by doing the same thing that made him the toughest out in the game. They never took their eye off the ball.

"I'm curious what evidence they have now, they didn't have before," said John Burriss, one of Bonds' attorneys.

Here's the answer: Enough. Take as much time as you need at the end of this sentence to unload all those suspicions and all that anger.

Done? Thought so. Most of us made up our minds about Bonds long before



BONDS

Barry Bonds is indicted on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice and could face prison. **A1**

weigh in quickly, albeit cautiously. Even while

SEE BONDS, C5