

React to the Red Sox' new agreement with Mike Lowell

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LOWELL'S SOX WILL STAY RED: View the gallery at Projosports.com/redsox

Projo PatsTalk

Shalise Manza Young discusses the latest news on the NFL's top team, posted by noon at projosports.com/patriots

Fab five

In 2007, Mike Lowell had the fifth-most RBI by an American League third baseman since 1950:

RBI	NAME	TEAM	YEAR
156	Alex Rodriguez	Yankees	2007
145	Al Rosen	Indians	1953
130	Alex Rodriguez	Yankees	2005
121	Alex Rodriguez	Yankees	2006
120	Mike Lowell	Red Sox	2007

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SECTION C



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Lowell, Sox agree on a 3-year, \$37.5-million deal

The agreement is reached after the Red Sox tell Lowell's agents that their offer was coming off the table after yesterday.

BY SEAN MCADAM
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — First, the Red Sox were determined not to go beyond three years for free-agent third baseman Mike Lowell. Then, they placed an expiration date on their proposal. Yesterday, their strategy paid off. Lowell and his agents agreed to a three-year deal worth \$37.5 million.

Only some last-minute paperwork needs to be completed.

An official announcement could come as soon as today.

Under the terms of the new deal, Lowell, who earned \$9 million in each of his first two years with the Red Sox, will be paid \$12 million in 2008, 2009 and 2010 and will be given a \$1.5 million signing bonus up front.

The agreement came after the Sox last week informed Lowell and his agents — Sam and Seth Levinson — that their offer would come off the



Mike Lowell's outstanding defensive skills, his offensive prowess and his leadership skills in the clubhouse were keys to the Red Sox winning the World Series this season.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

SEE LOWELL, C6

IN THE NEWS

■ VICK IN CUSTODY, AWAITS SENTENCE

Michael Vick surrendered to U.S. marshals yesterday in Richmond, Va., and will remain in jail until his sentencing on a dogfighting charge in three weeks. The Atlanta Falcons quarterback is scheduled to be sentenced on Dec. 10, but turned himself in because he anticipates a prison term on the federal dogfighting conspiracy charge, according to a court document. Vick could be sentenced to up to five years in prison.

■ BRUINS RECALL RASK FROM AHL

The Boston Bruins have again recalled Tuukka Rask from Providence of the AHL, replacing injured goalie Manny Fernandez. Rask has been recalled three times but has yet to play for Boston. He'll travel with the team for tonight's game against the Maple Leafs. The Bruins placed Fernandez on injured reserve on Nov. 9 with a left knee strain. There's no timetable for his return.

■ TYSON SPENDING ONE DAY IN JAIL

Mike Tyson could have received more than four years in prison. He left the courtroom having to serve all of one day in an open-air jail. The former heavyweight champion was sentenced yesterday for cocaine possession and driving under the influence. The 41-year-old boxer will serve his day in jail today for DUI. He received three years of probation for the cocaine charge and also will have to pay a fine, submit to drug testing and serve 360 hours of community service.

■ EAGLES' RYAN GETS ACC HONOR

Boston College quarterback Matt Ryan earned weekly honors from the Atlantic Coast Conference yesterday after leading the Eagles to the league championship game. The senior was named offensive back of the week after throwing for 315 yards and a touchdown in BC's win at Clemson. Ryan directed an eight-play, 71-yard drive and found Rich Gunnell for a 43-yard touchdown in the final minutes for a 20-17 victory.

NBA

Charlotte 101, Portland 92
Memphis 125, Seattle 108
Orlando 95, New Orleans 88
Utah 102, New Jersey 75

NHL

Atlanta 4, Tampa Bay 3
Florida 4, Washington 3
Islanders 2, Rangers 1
Ottawa 4, Montreal 2
St. Louis 2, Nashville 1
Dallas 3, Los Angeles 0

NFL

Denver 34, Tennessee 20

GOING FOR IT



Patriots cornerback Ellis Hobbs heads for the end zone after intercepting a pass by the Bills' J.P. Losman during the fourth quarter Sunday night.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

The Patriots never stop striving for perfection

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Bill Belichick gave his New England Patriots five days off during their bye week, a grand reward for a preseason of hard work and nine wins in nine regular-season games.

But as soon as the Patriots reported back to Gillette Stadium last Monday, Belichick made sure the players knew their break was over.

New England had full-pads practices on Monday and Wednesday, and was apparently relentless in reminding his players that there is still work to do, that they are far from a perfect team.

Translation: Everyone else may want New England to take it easy on their opponents, but Belichick isn't going to start taking it easy on the Pa-



BELICHICK

triotics any time soon.

"Coming off the bye week, we didn't know what to expect, especially me," said first-year Patriot Randy Moss. "He put us through a hell of a week, physically and mentally."

Record-wise, at least, the Pats may be an unblemished 10-0, but Belichick clearly has no plans on easing up, whether it's with the men he coaches each week or against New England's opponents.

Between heaping slices of the

SEE PATRIOTS, C5

New England is planning to keep pedal to metal

Some teams say it's their job to stop New England and not let the score get out of hand.

BY ROBERT LEE
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — First there was "Spygate."

Several members of the national media and players on opposing teams were calling for the Patriots to forfeit their games for "cheating" by taping opposing coaches' signals on the sidelines.

Belichick was fined \$500,000 for taping the Jets coaches' in the first week of the season, the Patriots were fined \$250,000, and New England is going to lose a first-round draft pick for that action.

When that story went away, several members of the national media and

opposing coaches and players took another swipe at Belichick. This time the "crime" was running up the score.

They say Belichick and the Patriots have broken some sort of unspoken rule where teams aren't supposed to run up the score on their opponents.

New England is winning games by an average of 25.4 points, and some teams and players have a problem with that.

"That's running up the score," Washington defensive lineman Philip Daniels said after the Patriots had crushed Washington, 52-7. "There isn't any other way to look at that."

New England went for a first down on fourth down against the Redskins when it led, 38-0.

"C'mon, man," Daniels complained.

SEE OFFENSE, C5

URI lets Stowers go for failure to win

In eight years in Kingston, football coach Tim Stowers succeeded in every area except on the scoreboard.

BY MIKE SZOSTAK
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

The next football coach at the University of Rhode Island will do everything Tim Stowers did for eight years: recruit solid, hard-working young men dedicated to academics as well as athletics, project a positive presence in the community and raise money.

But the next coach will also win.

In eight years at URI, Stowers succeeded in every area except winning, which is why he was fired yesterday, nearly 48 hours after his Rams defeated Northeastern, 35-30, in the finale of a 3-8 season that started 1-7. He was 33-57 with the Rams.

"It was a season-long evaluation," said director of athletics Thor Bjorn, who delivered the news to Stowers yesterday morning. The decision was difficult because Stowers and his staff "are wonderful people with families who worked hard to better the program."

But winning is important.

"We want to move forward and provide a better experience for the kids, and winning does that," Bjorn said. "Sometimes we apologize for saying winning is important. At this level, winning is important."

Stowers expressed no bitterness. "Obviously, we had one winning season. Even though we had a difficult schedule — we played six playoff teams and one I-A team — you never know. They just wanted to make a decision for the future of the program,

SEE STOWERS, C2



Rhody head coach Tim Stowers, on the sideline during the Fordham game in September, wasn't able to generate enough wins to keep his job.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON