

**Brady or Moss:
Who has been
more impressive
this season?**

Weigh in today at
projosports.com/patriots



PROJO PLAY OF THE WEEK: Ellis Hobbs' touchdown in words and photos at projosports.com/patriots

Live Rhody coverage

Follow today's game at Boston College with Kevin McNamara's blog entries and our live scoreboard at projosports.com/uri

Eagle fodder

URI first played Boston College in the 1910-11 season, but hasn't had much success against the Eagles over the years:

	W	L
OVERALL	10	37
Home	5	22
Road	4	15
Neutral	1	0

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

SECTION C



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IN THE NEWS

YANKS' FOCUS NOW ON PETTITTE

Andy Pettitte has become the next offseason focus for the New York Yankees, now that **Alex Rodriguez**, **Mariano Rivera** and **Jorge Posada** have decided to return to the Bronx. Pettitte declined his \$16-million option, saying he needed more time to decide whether he wanted to retire or return for a 14th major league season. "I talked to Andy once. I will talk to him after Thanksgiving," new manager Joe Girardi said yesterday. "I think it's very important that he comes back because I think he knows the Yankee way, and I think that he was a big plus in the clubhouse as well as on the field."

PATS ADD RADER TO PRACTICE UNIT

The Patriots re-signed tight end **Jason Rader** to the practice squad and released quarterback **David Greene** from the unit yesterday. New England released the 6-foot-4, 260-pound Rader from the practice squad reserve/injured list on Sept. 30. He was placed on that list five days earlier. The 26-year-old was signed to the practice squad on Sept. 3. He played in five NFL games with the Miami Dolphins in 2006.

MONROE'S JERSEY TO BE RETIRED

It took 36 years for the Washington Wizards to put "The Pearl" in the rafters. The Wizards will retire **Earl Monroe's** No. 10 jersey on Dec. 1, honoring the guard whose school-yard moves changed the NBA. Monroe played four full seasons with the Wizards' predecessors — the Baltimore Bullets — before he was traded to the New York Knicks in 1971. "When I went to New York, I had to give up my No. 10," Monroe said yesterday before the Wizards' game against the Philadelphia 76ers, "so finally getting my No. 10 back has brought me full circle."

NUXHALL RITES HELD IN OHIO

Cincinnati Reds stars past and present paid respects in Fairfield, Ohio, yesterday to **Joe Nuxhall**, joined by friends and fans who knew him only as the "old left-hander" from his folksy radio broadcasts or his charitable work. Nuxhall made major league history by pitching in his first game at age 15, then remained part of professional baseball for more than six decades. His death last week at age 79 brought an outpouring of mourning and tributes that his family says has been overwhelming.

NBA

San Antonio 95, Atlanta 83
L.A. Lakers 134, Indiana 114
Milwaukee 111, Cleveland 107
Washington 116, Philadelphia 101
Golden State 108, New York 82
Dallas 105, Toronto 99
Denver 112, Chicago 91
Phoenix at Sacramento

NHL

Boston 4, Toronto 2
Edmonton 5, Vancouver 4
Calgary 4, Colorado 1

GIVING THANKS



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KRIS CRAIG

Classical football and track star Patrick Onye has been approached by Division I colleges such as Michigan, Syracuse and Connecticut.



"Thanksgiving to me means saying thank you to God for just being here because I know there are so many things that could go wrong. When I play the game of football, I could hurt a knee or something. Or I could just walk outside right now and be shot in the head, who knows. I've been allowed to reach 18 years of age without anything going wrong. I have a good future ahead of me. Thanksgiving for me just means thank you for letting me wake up today in the position I am."

PROVIDENCE — Those are the words of Classical football player Patrick Onye. Do you get the idea that Onye isn't

JOHN GILLOOLY

your average Rhode Island high school football player?

There are a lot of things that distinguish Onye from the majority of the 2,200 or so teenagers who will be playing in holiday high school football games around Rhode Island tonight and tomorrow morning. The obvious one is he's bigger than most of the other players in the state. At 6-foot-3 and 260 pounds, he is one of the biggest players in the state.

He also is one of the few players in the state who already has earned a first-team All-State selection. An offensive and defensive lineman, last fall he was one of only four underclassmen who earned one of the 25 spots on the Providence Journal's first-team All-State squad.

He also is one of the few Rhode Island players who has had football coaches from places like UConn, Syracuse and Michigan come to talk to his coaches.

But beyond the size, beyond the already accumulated accolades, beyond the recruiting blitz, he is a young man who understands what family and football can mean in a teenager's life.

He also understands what it's like to try to focus on playing a high school football when you are worrying about your father in Iraq.

"My father is serving his third tour in Iraq. He has only seen two or three games during my whole high school career," Onye said about his father, Godfrey Onye, a career Army officer.

"I talk to him on the phone. He tells me to make sure I keep my grades up so that football is not the only thing I am depending on. He tells me to make sure I am doing the right thing, to take care of



SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL / GODFREY ONYE

Godfrey Onye, Patrick's father, is a career Army man currently serving his third tour of duty in Iraq.

my younger sister, my mother and everything," said Onye.

That's not always an easy assignment for a young man growing up in the city, but it helps when you're part of a football family.

"Football has been the best family type

SEE **GILLOOLY, C6**

THE VOTES ARE IN

HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland readers were asked to list their favorites for tonight's football games. The favorite is listed in bold:

Visitors	Home	Favored by	Time
Classical	Mount Pleasant	87%-13%	5:30
Narra.	East Greenwich	67%-33%	6:30
Rogers	St. Raphael	89%-11%	7
Lincoln	Johnston	64%-36%	7
Tolman	Shea	84%-16%	7
Central	Hope	62%-38%	7:30

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES: 205
Poll results as of 4 p.m. yesterday. The polls will remain open until game time. See the latest results, and cast your vote, at HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland

Montana's 49ers have set the bar for Brady's Pats

"I've never seen anyone play this position better than Tom Brady (is) now, and that includes Joe Montana. I've always said Joe Montana is the best I've ever seen, but Tom Brady, right now, this year, I think is playing better than Joe Montana ever did."

JIM DONALDSON

— John Madden, during Sunday night's telecast of New England's 56-10 trouncing of the Bills in Buffalo

Couldn't agree with you more, John.

I, too, have always said Joe Montana is the best quarterback I've ever seen. Better than Dan Marino. Better than John Elway.

Better than Marc Wilson. Hey — boom! — just wanted to see if you were paying attention. Better than Brett Favre. Better than Sammy Baugh, Otto Graham and Johnny U., too.

The reason I've always thought Montana was the best is because he was at his best in the biggest games.

He won all four Super Bowls in which he played, and was named Most Valuable Player in three of them. The one he wasn't the MVP in was the game against Cincinnati when, with the 49ers trailing in the closing minutes, he directed a 92-yard drive that culminated in a game-winning, 10-yard touch-

SEE **DONALDSON, C5**



THE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON

As well as he is playing, Tom Brady still has some work to do to usurp Joe Montana.

Young Eagles, learning to fly, get test from URI

The Rams go for their sixth straight win, against an inexperienced but talented BC team.

BY **KEVIN McNAMARA**
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

As Al Skinner let the memories of his previous 19 basketball teams sift through his mind, he came to a conclusion that is more than a bit unsettling to most college coaches.

"I don't remember any team I've had being this young," said Skinner, the former University of Rhode Island coach now in his 11th season at Boston College. "Every day is a new day, a new challenge."

College basketball coaches crave experience, but when

**TODAY
URI vs. BC**

- TIME: 4 p.m.
- SITE: Boston College's Conte Forum
- TV: None
- RADIO: WHJJ-AM (920), WJZS-FM (99.3) Radio
- TEAM RECORDS: URI 5-0, BC 3-0
- THE LINE: BC by 3
- FOLLOW THE GAME as it happens at projosports.com/uri

Skinner finished a season-opening win over New Hampshire with four freshmen and a green sophomore on the floor, he knew this season would pre-

SEE **RAMS, C3**

HS GAME TIME
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