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**Head of the line**

The leading scorers for PC and URI so far this season:

PLAYER	PPG
Will Daniels, URI	20.1
Jim Baron, URI	14.9
Brian McKenzie, PC	13.6
Dwain Williams, PC	13.4
Geoff McDermott, PC	11.8
Weynmi Efejuku, PC	11.0
Jeff Xavier, PC	10.6

SECTION C

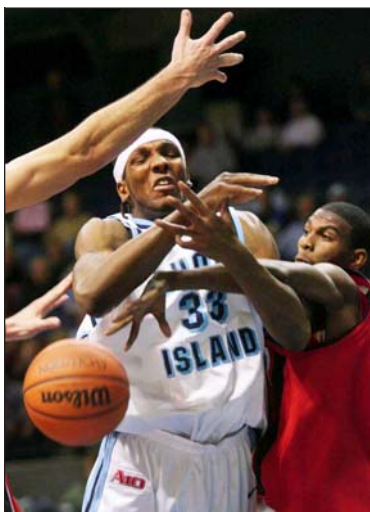


THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2007

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# OUTSIDE TRACK



THE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON

URI's Kahiem Seawright is fouled by Northeastern's Chaiison Allen, right, while going up for a shot during the second half last night.

## Rhody's finish has Huskies gasping

The Rams answer Northeastern's challenge with a 21-5 run, a blitz of spectacular basketball.

BY PAUL KENYON  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

**SOUTH KINGSTOWN** — A lot of people think the URI basketball team has the talent to have a great winter. Last night the Rams gave their biggest indication yet that they have the toughness, as well, to get the job done.

Rhode Island received a major test from a good Northeastern team and was in a 59-59 deadlock midway through the second half at the Ryan Center. The URI team leader, Will Daniels, was on the bench with foul problems. The Rams looked to be in trouble.

They responded the way top teams do.

Their answer was a 21-5 run to take control, a blitz not only of excellent basketball but of often-spectacular action. There was one play after another to get the crowd of 4,300 up and roaring, from Keith Cothran steals and slashes to the hoop, to Joe Mbang and Lamonte Ulmer dunks, to 3-point baskets by Jimmy Baron and Parfait Bitee.

By the time it was over, URI had made enough plays to fill a highlight reel and it had a 92-72 triumph to up its record to 7-1.

"That one spurt. We just took it to score," said coach Jim Baron, who celebrated his 300th victory as a college coach with the decision. "I don't know how many dunks we had (three in that run alone). We took it to score. We were really aggressive and attacked the bucket."

"Tonight was a game of tempo. The whole key to the game (for

SEE **URI, C5**

## Injury may hurt Patriots in the end

Rosevelt Colvin's foot injury could prove crippling to the Patriots in their bid to join the '72 Dolphins as the only undefeated champions in NFL history.

JIM DONALDSON



The loss of Colvin, who led the team in sacks the last two seasons, leaves the Pats both old and thin at linebacker.

Assuming that Junior Seau steps into a starting role alongside Tedy Bruschi on the inside, and the versatile Adalious Thomas moves outside, joining Mike Vrabel, the Pats still can boast a starting quartet as good as any in the league.

The problem is that it's the oldest quartet in the league.

Thomas is the "youngster" of the group at the age of 30. Vrabel is 32; Bruschi, 34; and Seau is ancient, by NFL standards, as he'll turn 39 in January.

There isn't much behind them.

There's Pierre Woods, whose specialty is special teams, and Eric Alexander, who is best remembered for chasing after Colts tight end Dallas Clark in the waning minutes of last year's AFC Championship Game at Indianapolis.

To provide some semblance of depth, the Patriots just signed 36-year-old Chad Brown. And Larry Izzo, the captain of the special teams, also is available in an emergency situation.

The linebacking situation in New England isn't desperate yet. But, if one more starter goes down, it could be. And the odds are that very well may be the case by the time the playoffs roll around.

SEE **DONALDSON, C3**



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GRETCHEN ERTL

With the Pats' Rosevelt Colvin, top, shown sacking Redskins QB Mark Brunell during an exhibition game last year, out for the season, Adalious Thomas is the likely replacement.

## Thomas replacing Colvin?

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — If Adalious Thomas already knows he'll be moving to outside linebacker in Rosevelt Colvin's absence, he wasn't letting on yesterday.

With Colvin placed on season-ending injured reserve Tuesday with a foot injury, Thomas is the logical choice to bump to his spot from inside 'backer, where he has played for much of the season.

Asked if he'd be glad to move to outside linebacker, a more natural position for him, Thomas said, "I don't know. It depends on whatever coach (Bill Belichick) see fit as far as that goes, but whoever it is that's out there I'm pretty sure they'll do the job."

Getting answers yesterday on what is going to happen with the linebacking group now that Colvin is out of the mix was as easy as trying to figure out if Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone.

Mike Vrabel eschewed his usual Wednesday chat with the media; Pierre Woods would only direct reporters to "ask Bill," and Tedy Bruschi declined to comment.

"We certainly didn't want to lose Rosie, but that's where we're at, so we'll just move on with what we have," Belichick said.

What the Pats have is Thomas, Vrabel, Junior Seau and Bruschi remaining from the five-man rotation they had been utilizing. Seau and Bruschi have basically been trading reps at one of the inside spots, but now they may be playing together. The pair has a combined 30 years of NFL experience, but at 38 and 34, respectively, not playing every down has likely helped their effectiveness.

New England re-signed Chad Brown to shore up the group, which also includes second-year man Woods and third-year man Eric Alexander, both of whom have played sparingly on defense.

SEE **PATRIOTS, C3**

## Lester finishes triumphant season, stands tall with Conigliaro Award

BY JOE McDONALD  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — Jon Lester didn't hide the fact that he doesn't know much about Tony Conigliaro.

Even though the Red Sox pitcher had to do his homework, Lester quickly realized he and the former Red Sox outfielder have something in common. Both faced adversity during their respective careers and because of Lester's successful battle



LESTER

against cancer prior to the 2007 season, the 23-year-old left-hander has been named the recipient of the 18th Annual Tony Conigliaro Award.

The award is given to a major-league player who has overcome adversity through the attributes of spirit, determination and cour-



**PLAYOFFS**

Toll Gate running back Douglas Johnson, evading the grasp of Cranston East's Russell Bacon in the Division II semifinal game Tuesday, could be on the run once again on Saturday against South Kingstown in the Titans' quest for a Super Bowl crown. See the Division I and II Super Bowl previews on Page C6.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GRETCHEN ERTL



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