

PC plays URI on Tuesday. Which team will win the game?

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Hoops reference

Atlantic 10 and Big East standings and scoreboards at projsports.com/uri and projsports.com/pc

The rivalry

PC vs. URI, by the numbers:

	PC	URI
Home	33	27
Away	28	23
Neutral	4	2
Overall	65	52

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

SECTION C



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A different feel



BILL REYNOLDS

PC-URI strong but passion has waned

Both teams still have games to play this weekend, but next week's PC-URI battle looms like some Rhode Island basketball holiday, something to look forward to.

Both teams are good, have big dreams.

The Ryan Center will be sold out. Can it get any bigger than this? Well, that's the rub.

Because this is no longer the rivalry it once was, even if it's still a great one, our own little basketball turf war. This is no longer as passionate as it once was, even given last year's game in the Dunk, when the Rams' mascot was allegedly roughed up in a men's room.

There are reasons for this, of course. The fact that there's only one game a year, when once there were two. The fact that the game happens so early in the season that by March who won has little bearing on anything. The fact that both teams are in different leagues, two different college basketball realities.

And the most important thing of all?

There no longer is the animosity between the schools that there once was.

For there once was animosity, no question about that.

It started back in the fall of 1976, when celebrated PC recruit Sly Williams ended up in Kingston, amid cries of foul. Until then, PC and URI had been a rivalry. After that it became a holy war.

This also was happening shortly after the opening of the Civic Center, the new down-

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Biggest Brouhaha

After committing to play for Dave Gavitt's Friars, Sly Williams changed his mind at the last moment and registered for classes at the University of Rhode Island. PC has cried foul ever since. Williams went on to All-America honors and the NBA.

Greatest Shot

In Dave Gavitt's last home game as PC's coach, Friars forward Rudy Williams lofted an 89-foot shot that banked off the glass and went in, ending the first half. PC went on to upset the Sly Williams-led Rams, 84-77.

Ugliest Scene

In 1990, a first-half bench-clearing brawl that was as bad as a basketball fight can get erupted. After plenty of swings, pushes and bodies spilling into the crowd, six players were ejected. Luckily for PC, Eric Murdock wasn't one of them. His 33 points led to a 78-76 win.

Most Important Game

The only meeting in the series that carried postseason stakes came on March 4, 1978, when PC and URI met for the ECAC-New England title. Led by Jiggy Williamson and Sly Williams, the Rams edged the Friars, 65-62, and advanced to the NCAA Tournament.



AP / STEVEN SENNE

Lefty Johan Santana would give the Red Sox the best rotation in baseball.

Sox, Twins mulling deal for Santana

Boston is one of a half-dozen or so interested suitors for standout lefty Johan Santana, arguably the best pitcher in baseball.

BY SEAN MCADAM
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — As recently as a week ago, the Red Sox seemed set to embark on a relatively tranquil offseason.

After re-signing free agents Curt Schilling and Mike Lowell, the Sox' winter shopping list seemed short. The club needed to find an experienced fourth outfielder (or re-sign Bobby Kielty); obtain a corner infielder to replace Eric Hinske, and upgrade the backup catcher position.

That was before left-hander Johan Santana entered the picture. Days before the Winter Meetings get under way in Nashville on Monday, the Sox and Minnesota Twins are already engaged in talks for Santana, arguably the best pitcher in baseball.

Santana's pending free agency — his current contract runs out after the 2008 season — and contractual demands — he is insistent on being the highest-paid pitcher in the game — have forced the Twins into sell mode.

The Red Sox, of course, are just one of a half-dozen or so interested suitors. The New York Yankees, New York Mets, Los Angeles Dodgers and Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim all have expressed their

SEE RED SOX, C3



PLAYOFFS

Classical's Emanuel Tutu, left, getting past North Providence's Robert Conroy, has used his speed and power to score 30 touchdowns this season. Classical meets Exeter-West Greenwich in the Division IV title game tomorrow. See the Division III and IV Super Bowl previews on C6.

THE JOURNAL / GRETCHEN ERTL



Players' bonuses are out of bounds

Patriots players might find the cash rewards as a way to rev up teammates, but the NFL says such incentives could escalate into bounties.

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — By now, it has been well chronicled that one of the reasons for the New England Patriots' success in recent seasons, particularly with bringing in so-called "difficult" players, has been the culture in the locker room. Respected veteran players rule the roost, and the

players police themselves.

Conform and be a good teammate, and there are no problems. One of the ways the room is policed is with petty fines, and an article in Wednesday's USA Today detailed how the fines are assessed and then the pot is used as a reward for players in the next game.

The story was lighthearted, and had Richard Seymour, Tedy Bruschi and Adalius Thomas discussing the fine and reward process. But the article ended with this: "One problem. It's also a violation of NFL policy. But that's an issue for someone else to police."

League rules prohibit such fi-



ONLINE ONLY: Read Jim Donaldson's take on last night's Cowboys-Packers game, which may decide the NFC representative in this year's Super Bowl, at projsports.com/patsblog

nancial extras, as they could escalate into bounties, whereby players may be rewarded for knocking a running back out of a game or injuring the quarterback. The rule states, "Clubs and players are prohibited from offer-

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bring it on!



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